

HEAR ME, IRON MAN! I AM
DRAX, THE DESTROYER!

I BRING YOU A
MESSAGE FROM
ACROSS HALF A
CONTINENT--

-- A MESSAGE
OF FEAR AND
DREAD!

HEED ME, IRON MAN:

**"BEWARE--
BEWARE--"**

PLOT, PENCILS,
AND CHARACTER
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BEWARE THE... BLOOD BROTHERS!



THE FAR-FLUNG WARNING PENETRATES -- BUT TOO LATE!

FOR A FEARSOME MENACE IS ALREADY UPON THE IRON-GARBED TONY STARK!

"BLOOD BROTHERS" -- A GOOD NAME FOR THESE THINGS! THEY SURE WANT MINE BAD ENOUGH!



HOW I SUDDENLY "HEARD" THAT TELEPATHIC MESSAGE IS A MYSTERY...

THOOM!



ALSO WHERE THESE OVER-STUFFED CLOWNS CAME FROM--

-- BUT I DO KNOW THIS!



...A PRISON WORLD FOR ONE CALLED... DRAX, THE DESTROYER!

THANOS! HOW DID YOU RETURN?

I'VE BEEN WATCHING YOU ALL ALONG, SIMPLE-MINDED DOLT!

YOUR EVERY MOVE IS MONITORED, DESTROYER!

DID YOU NOT SUSPECT I COULD TELL YOU'VE BEEN TELEPATHING?

I COULD EASILY HAVE STOPPED YOU--

BUT I CHOSE NOT TO--

-- FOR YOU ARE LIKE A SPACE MOTE CRASHING UPON A BARREN ASTEROID:

I'LL BREAK FREE OF YOUR EVIL DOMINATION, THANOS--

-- TO ANNIHILATE YOU, THANOS-- UTTERLY!

HA-HA-- WE SHALL SEE, DRAX!

WE SHALL SEE!

TOTALLY INSIGNIFICANT!

-- THEN I'LL FULFILL MY SOLE LIFE-MISSION--

COULD I HAVE FAILED?

NO-- I REFUSE TO BELIEVE IT!

LET ME REMEMBER--

I-- REMEMBER HOW I STRUGGLED IN HELPLESSNESS... THEN, MY TRAINING MADE I DIRECT MY MENTAL ENERGIES TOWARD MY NEAREST AID--

"-- AND I DID -- TO A SPECIFIC POINT ON THE GREEN PLANET...

"WHERE--

GENTLEMEN, THIS IS THE FIRST SET OF SALES AND STOCK REPORTS COMPILED SINCE STARK INDUSTRIES--

--SHIFTED PRIORITIES FROM WEAPONRY TO ECOLOGICAL RESEARCH. I AM PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE--



"AT THAT MOMENT, I MADE... CONTACT!"

"I HAD MIND-BLASTED TOO POWERFULLY--

Y-YES... JUST A SUDDEN... HEADACHE!

"I COLLECTED MYSELF FOR A MORE SUBTLE APPROACH... WHILE..."



I... I...
= GAIN!



"-- AND HE WRITHED IN ANGUISH!"



I'VE SURVIVED WORSE!

THANK HEAVEN! IF WE DON'T GO OVER THESE REPORTS--!



NO, DAN -- THE REPORTS CAN WAIT -- UNTIL TOMORROW MORNING!

BUT... WHY?

BECAUSE I ORDERED IT, GENTLEMEN! MEETING ADJOURNED!



HATE TO BE GRUFF LIKE THAT-- BUT THIS IS IMPORTANT!

THAT WAS NO ORDINARY MIGRAINE!

SOMEONE-- OR SOME-THING-- TRIED TO FRY MY BRAIN--

--WITHOUT TOUCHING ME!



THE ONLY PROTECTION I'VE GOT IS MY STEEL-- MESH ARMOR!

MAYBE IT'S TIME FOR TONY STARK'S "BODY-GUARD" TO APPEAR!



FIRST, NATCH, IS MY COLLAPSIBLE HELMET-- AND ATTACHED COLLAR--!



THEN THE MAGNETIC SHOULDER EPAULETS--



-- SO I CAN SLIP ON MY GLOVES... PRESS A HIDDEN RELEASE--



-- AND ZINGO... UP COMES THE RETRACTABLE ARM COVERING!



THEN REPEAT THE PROCESS WITH MY BOOTS AND LEGS!



THOSE MAGNETS SURE DO THE TRICK!



FINALLY, BUCKLE MY POWER RODS--



-- SLIP MY FACE MASK--

-- POLARIZE THE WHOLE SHEAR TO IRON TOUGHNESS--

"...AND THERE HE STOOD, MISTAKEN IN THE BELIEF HE COULD WARD OFF MY MENTAL PROBES, YET STILL A MAN-MACHINE OF MUSCULAR MIGHT!"

"BUT..."

"I PRESUME AT THIS TIME, OUTSIDE THE DARK-SHROUDED STARK INDUSTRIES HEADQUARTERS..."



"HUH, WHAT'S THIS? WHO'S THERE?"



"WHEN'S A HUGE UGLY BRUTE, AIN'T HE?"

"HOLD IT, MISTER! NO-ONE GETS BY WITHOUT A PASS!"

"NOT ONE, EARTHMAN--"



"--TWO!"

"YES, THE BLOOD BROTHERS -- SENT BY THANOS!"

"BUT I KNEW NOT OF THIS..."

"AND THIS I TELEPATHED A SECOND TIME--"

"--AND TOUCHED!"

"A VOICE-- BURNING MY BRAIN!"

"IRON MAN! YOU KNOW ME NOT-- BUT I NEED YOUR HELP! BEAR WITH ME--!"

"OKAY, BUSTER-- FEELS I'VE NOT MUCH CHOICE."

"SHOOT."

"SO I BEGAN..."



"IMAGES MIRRORINED INTO THE GOLDEN AVENGER'S MIND!

"OF THE PLANET SATURN... AND ITS LARGEST MOON, TITAN...

"POCKED WITH LIFELESS CRATERS, YET SHIELDING A HIDDEN SECRET!

"ISAAC, A GARGANTHIAN COMPUTER... BOTH TEACHER AND SERVANT TO WHAT LAY BELOW IT--

"A COMPLETELY SELF-SUFFICIENT PARADISE... HOME OF THE TITANS...

"THE TITANS-- A PEOPLE OF EVER-ADVANCING SCIENCE, ART AND BEAUTY--

"-- AND RULED BY WISE MENTOR AND HIS SONS!

"EROS...

"... AND THANOS...

"THEN CAME THE GREAT RIFT!

"THANOS TRIED USURP THE POWER... CREATING WEAPONS ON THIS WORLD THAT HAD NONE!

"FOR THIS CRIME OF CRIMES, THANOS WAS EXILED, NEVER TO POISON HIS HOME AGAIN...

"BUT THE SEED OF EVIL SPROUTED AND FLOWERED WITHIN HIM, CONSUMING HIS ENTIRE SOUL!

"HE VOWED VENGEANCE-- AND SOUGHT IT WITH A FERY PASSION--

"CRISS-CROSSING THE GALAXY, MENTOR'S WAYWARD SON COLLECTED A RAGING HORDE OF INTERSTELLAR MAL CONTENTS--

"THEY BECAME AN ARMY, PAID IN THANOS' BOOTY AND ANSWERABLE ONLY TO HIS DEMONIC SNARLS!



"THEY ATTACKED!"

"BATTERED BY A SAVAGERY HE'ER BEFORE WITNESSED, MENTOR SOUGHT ADVICE FROM HIS FINAL RESORT--



"THE DISEMBODIED ENTITY KNOWN ONLY AS... KRONOS!"

FATHER OF FATHERS... I COME IN THE DIREST OF NEEDS!

SPEAK NO MORE, MENTOR.

I HAVE WITNESSED TITAN'S TRIAL AND I... GRIEVE!



BUT GRIEF IS A HOLLOW SUBSTANCE, IF NOT BACKED BY NEW RESOLVE!

I CAN AID TITAN BUT ONCE--

YET, AID IT I SHALL!

"THE GROUND TREMBLED WITH GALACTIC AWE, CRACKLING BENEATH THE SOLAR WINDS..."



"THEN FROM THE RUBBLE FORMED... A HAND, GRASPING OUTWARD TO THE UNIVERSE!"

"BIRTHED NOT OF MOTHER, NOR OF FATHER, YET... YET..."

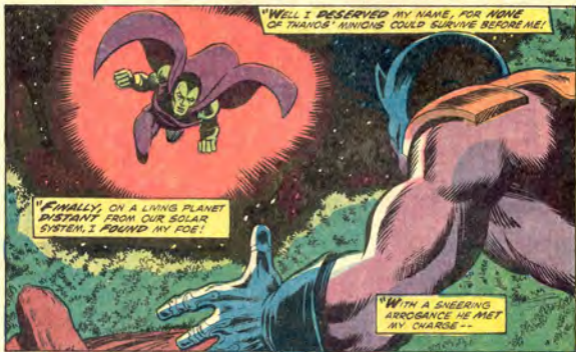


"BOUNDING WITH PULSING, POUNDING LIFE!"

"IT WAS I...

"**DRAX, THE
DESTROYER!**

"**WINE WAS A
MISSION OF
DESTRUCTION...
AN ANNIHILATION
OF THE EVIL
THAT PRANCED
AND STRUTTED
IN THE FORM OF
THANOS!**



"**WELL I PRESERVED MY NAME, FOR NONE
OF THANOS' MINIONS COULD SURVIVE BEFORE ME!**

"**FINALLY, ON A LIVING PLANET
DISTANT FROM OUR SOLAR
SYSTEM, I FOUND MY FOE!**

"**WITH A SNEERING
ARROGANCE HE MET
MY CHARGE --**



"... AND THE
LANDSCAPE
BECAME VICTIM...

"... WRETCHED
VIOLENTLY
FROM ITS NORMAL
EBBS AND
TIDES...

"... UNWILLING
WITNESS
TO THIS
MASSIVE
CLASH --

"AND, ULTIMATELY--

"...OF ITS OWN TOTAL DEVASTATION!"

KA-ROOM!

"THE PLANETARY EXPLOSION WEAKENED ME-- AND I WAS CAPTURED!"

"THANOS BROUGHT ME HERE, TO THIS DESERTED REGION OF YOUR OWN GREENER WORLD-- TO THIS PLACE HE ONCE HAD MADE HIS WAR-CAMP, SAFE EVEN FROM THE COSMIC MIND OF MENTOR!"



"BUT I WAS NOT WITHOUT RESOURCES! I STILL POSSESSED MY FINE-TUNED MIND..."

"ISAAC HAD INFORMED ME OF EARTH AND ITS SUPER-POWERED INHABITANTS..."

"ESPECIALLY THE HIGH SKILL OF ONE CALLED IRON MAN!"

"YES, ALL THIS I TOLD TO THAT ARMORED SCION OF EARTH IN THOSE FEW SECONDS..."

"UNTIL AT THE LAST MOMENT I BECAME AWARE OF THE BLOOD BROTHERS -- AND CRIED OUT..."



"BUT MY WARNING CAME TOO LATE-- AND IRON MAN IS DEFEATER..."

"...BROUGHT NOW TO JOIN MY JAILMENT..."

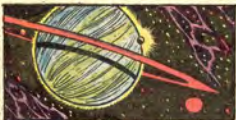


"STILL, I CANNOT HELP BUT BELIEVE THAT IT IS ALL TO THE BEST? WHY?"

WHY??



FOR AN ANSWER,
DESTROYER, WE MUST LOOK
FAR... TO YOUR HOMEWORLD
OF SATURN—CIRCLING
TITAN ITSELF...



TO CENTRAL CONTROL--
FOCAL POINT FOR THE
COMPUTER THAT IS ISAAC!

MENTOR: TELEPATHIC CONTACT WITH DESTROYER ESTABLISHED-- BUT ONLY ON THE UNCONSCIOUS LEVELS.

... UNTIL FULL CONSCIOUS FEEDBACK FROM DESTROYER IS ACHIEVED.

HEMM... IS THE ALIEN IRON MAN PRESENT?

AFFIRMATIVE.

THEN CONTINUE MENTAL PROBE--

UNTIL THEN, ALL WE MUST HAVE IS PATIENCE, AND THAT WHICH OUR ANCESTORS CALLED... FAITH!

MEANWHILE, BACK IN THANOS' EARTH-FORTRESS, REALITY BUBBLES INTO IRON MAN'S MIND...

UNLESS I WANT HIM FOR A ROOMIE, I'D BEST USE MY ONLY FIGHTING CARD--

THE DESTROYER IS MENTALLY "TELLING" ME WHERE HE'S BEING HELD PRISONER!

-- SURPRISE! --

NOW-- WHILE THEY'RE OFF GUARD-- SOME CONCENTRATED REPULSOR RAYS!

ZAT!

THERE! THAT THREW 'EM OFF-- FOR JUST A MOMENT--

-- BUT THAT'S ALL I NEED-- ENOUGH TO JET AWAY!





THE NAME, IRON MAN, IS... **THANOS!**

MORE PROPERLY, THANOS THE FIRST--

--EMPEROR SHORTLY OF NEAR-DEFEATED TITAN-- THEN OF YOUR OWN EARTH!

DON'T STICK OUT YOUR BOOTS FOR ME TO LICK, SMILEY!

I JUST MAY SPIT ON THEM!

BAH! WHY DO I WASTE MY TIME GLOATING OVER SUCH A PRIMITIVE LIFE-FORM?



TAKE HIM AWAY-- AND DO NOT LOSE HIM THIS TIME!



WAIT! I AM RECEIVING A MENTAL MESSAGE FROM ISAAC!

MENTOR KNOWS I AM HERE!



MENTOR: RECEIVING CEREBRAL FEEDBACK!

EXACT MATRIX COORDINATES: 34 YZY X89 AQ..



WELL DONE, ISAAC!

AND NOW-- READY PROJECT FREEDOM!



FIRE!

A BLAZE OF BLUE ISSUES FROM THE ROCKS OF TITAN...

...AN AZURE FLAME WHICH
STREAKS ACROSS THE VOID
AT SPEEDS UNDREAMT-
OF BY EARTH-BORN
PHYSICISTS...

...ANP...

MY CHEST-
PLATE UNI-
BEAM--

--NO-LEE
TOLEDO!

BAROON!

AND THE
DESTROYER
IS FREE!

I DON'T KNOW WHAT
JUST HAPPENED--
BUT THIS AVENGER
ISN'T GOING TO
HOLD AN INQUIRY!

YOUR QUESTIONS WILL
BE ANSWERED, EARTHMAN--
AFTER THESE DOGS
HAVE GROVELLED IN
THIS ALIEN DUST!

MY SENTIMENTS
EXACTLY, PARTNER!
LET'S HAVE SOME--

ACTION!

BRAK!





SAY, DESTROYER, HOW EXACTLY DID YOU GET FREE?

EVER THE INQUIRING SCIENTIST, EH, TONY STARK? BUT A LEGITIMATE QUESTION, NONETHELESS!

ISAAC WAS ABLE TO TRACE ME HERE, IF NOT LEND AID...

WHEN YOU ARRIVED, I MENTALLY ORDERED A POWER BEAM TRANSMITTED TO YOUR ARMOR...

POW!!



--AND MY ARMOR WAS THE VITAL LINK-UP, HUH? FOCUSING THE ENERGY AND SUCH?

IMPRESSIVE.

WHICH I CAN NO LONGER SAY FOR TEDDY BEAR HERE!

THUD!!



IT WILL BE YOUR LAST BOAST, IRON MAN!

ONCE THIS SWITCH IS THROWN, THIS ENTIRE FORTRESS WILL BE OBLITERATED!

AND YOU AS WELL, THANOS!

FOR REVENGE I THINK HE'LL DO IT, DESTROYER!



THE POINT IS
MOOT,
IRON MAN.

A LOW-YIELD
ENERGY BLAST
ELIMINATES THE
THREAT!

GOOD MOVES,
DRAXY-BOY! HE'S
DAZED ENOUGH FOR
ME TO RUSH IN--

ZZZRANK!

KRASK!

--AND PASTE HIM
ONE, BEFORE HE
CAN--

A ROBOT!!

WHAT
THE
DEVIL--?



AAAA... THANOS MUST
HAVE GOTTEN AWAY--
WHILE WE WERE
BATTLING THE BLOOD
BROTHERS!

PERHAPS THAT IS THE
REASON--TO KEEP US!

YOU MEAN HE
MAY'VE BOOBY-
TRAPPED US--?

BUT WHY'D
HE LEAVE
A ROBOT TO
KEEP US HERE?

KNOWING
THANOS...

GOTCHA!

A HELLBENT STREAK FOR
SAFETY... AND--

BA-DOOM!

I ANALYZED
THE SITUATION
CORRECTLY!

THAT YOU DID,
OLD BUDDY!
THAT YOU DID!

THERE BLOWS
THE END OF THINGS!
EARTH-FORTRESS
AND OF THE
BLOOD BROTHERS!

NONE OF THEM
WILL BOTHER YOU
FOR A LONG,
LONG TIME!



A LONG TIME...?
I...
WONDER.

AND I
DOUBT!



BUT IN *ANY* CASE,
I OWE YOU MY
LIFE, EARTHMAN!

WITHOUT *YOUR*
ARMOR, I'D STILL
BE TRAPPED!



HOW CAN I--AND
THE TITANS--
EVER REPAY YOU?

ON *MY* WORLD
A VICTORY WON--AND
AN EVIL *THWARTED*--
IS A *DOUBLE* PAYMENT!



GALLANT WORDS,
IRON MAN!



MY *HAND*,
AVENGER!
AND *MINE*,
DESTRUCTOR!

YOU'VE GOT A
LONG *BATTLE*
AHEAD OF YOU--
BUT YOU'LL
MAKE IT!



VILLAINS LIKE THANOS
MAY BE *STRONG*--
BUT THEY'RE *CHEAP*--

-- ONCE *DEFEATED*,
THEY ARE
ONLY... *JUNK!*



SO WE MAY *HOPE*,
IRON MAN! WE
SHALL *SEE!*

FAREWELL.

YES--
FAREWELL.

NOW I'VE GOT TO
REST MY *TRANSISTORS*
A WHILE... AND THEN,
START A LONG
JOURNEY *HOME!*

JUST IN TIME FOR... **RASPUTIN!** BE HERE
NEXT 15th!