



# THE MIGHTY THOR

APPROVED  
BY THE  
COMICS  
CODE  
AUTHORITY

MARVEL  
COMICS  
GROUP

12¢ 132  
SEPT

"WHERE GODS MAY  
FEAR TO TREAD!"





# THE MIGHTY THOR!

## RIGEL

"WHERE GODS  
MAY FEAR  
TO TREAD!"

I HAVE OVER-POWERED THE TWO ALIEN BEINGS WITHIN THIS SHIP... BUT NOW WE APPROACH THEIR HOME WORLD...THE MYSTERIOUS RIGEL!

A VOICE!!  
FROM THE  
STRANGE  
OBJECT  
FLOATING  
BEFORE  
ME!

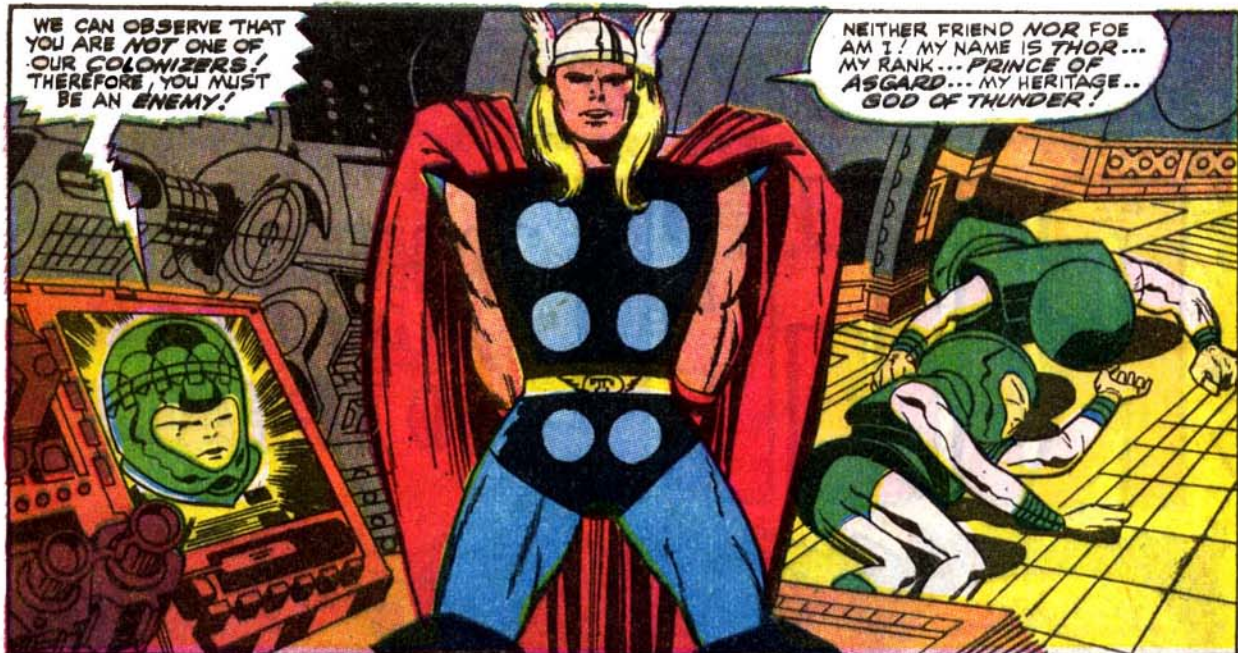
IT IS LIKE AN  
EARTHLY TOLL  
BOOTH...  
GUARDING THE  
ROUTE TO  
RIGEL!

BUT I MUST  
REACH RIGEL...TO  
DESTROY THE SPACE  
LOCK WHICH IS NOW  
MENACING ALL OF  
MANKIND!

ATTENTION! THIS IS  
SKY-STATION 14-R!  
YOU ARE ORDERED TO  
IDENTIFY YOURSELF  
AND YOUR SPACECRAFT!

ASTONISHING SCRIPT: STAN LEE  
AWESOME ARTWORK: JACK KIRBY  
ARTFUL DELINEATION: VINCE COLLETTA  
AMAZING LETTERING: SAM ROSEN  
ALIEN TRANSLATIONS: IRVING FORBUSH





WE CAN OBSERVE THAT YOU ARE **NOT** ONE OF OUR **COLONIZERS**! THEREFORE, YOU MUST BE AN **ENEMY**!

NEITHER FRIEND NOR FOE AM I! MY NAME IS **THOR**... MY RANK... **PRINCE OF ASGARD**... MY HERITAGE... **GOD OF THUNDER**!



I **COMMAND** THEE TO REMOVE YON **SPACE LOCK** FROM THE PLANET EARTH... OR SUFFER MY **BOUNDLESS WRATH**!

THUS SPEAKS THE SON OF ODIN!



**NONE** THREATEN THE **COLONIZERS** OF **RIGEL**!

A **SHIP** LEAVES THE **SKY STATION**... HEADED DIRECTLY **TOWARDS** ME!



WE SHALL GAIN ENTRANCE TO THE INVADER'S SHIP VIA A **BRIDGE** OF **ION-PACKED ATOMS**!

**BEHOLD!** THE **INVADER** APPROACHES US!

**QUICKLY!** STOP HIM WITH A **MIND THRUST**!

STAND YE BACK... **ALL**! THE **PATIENCE** OF **THOR** HATH TRULY REACHED ITS **END**!

IT IS TO **NO AVAIL**! HIS **POWER** IS FAR GREATER THAN OURS!



HE **MUST** BE STOPPED! BRING FORTH THE **ANTI-PERSONNEL BLASTERS**...!

STILL THOU  
DAREST DEFY  
ME?!!

THEN  
LET THE FURY OF MY **URU  
HAMMER** TEACH THEE THE  
FOLLY OF SUCH A  
COURSE!



THE HAMMER HAS BEEN  
**STOPPED**! NOW, INTENSIFY  
FORCE TO **CREMATION  
LEVEL**...!

THOUGH WE HALTED ITS  
FLIGHT... WE **CANNOT  
DESTROY IT**... EVEN  
AT **PEAK INTENSITY**!



KNOW THEE NOW,  
MEN OF **RIGEL**...

'TIS THE **SON OF IMPERIAL  
ODIN** WHO STANDS THUS  
BEFORE THEE!

MY HAMMER DOTHS  
SHATTER A **SUN** EASILY  
AS A **STONE**! IN ALL  
THE WORLD, MY POWER  
IS **UNMATCHED**!

BUT, THIS IS A  
**DIFFERENT WORLD**  
IN WHICH YOU FIND  
YOURSELF!



BUT, BEFORE THE ENCHANTED MALLET CAN STRIKE,  
A **CALM, CLEAR COMMAND** IS GIVEN...

FORM A  
**GROUP MIND  
DEFENSE**!!  
COMBINE MIND  
THRUSTS...**NOW**!

IT IS  
SO DONE!



IT RESISTS OUR FORCE...  
IT BREAKS AWAY... AT  
EVER-INCREASING  
**SPEED**!

**LOOK OUT!** THE  
HAMMER IS TRULY  
**BEWITCHED**!



**NO MATTER!**  
I NOW TAKE  
COMMAND OF  
THY SHIP AND  
ALL ITS  
EFFECTS!

NOW GO WE FORTHWITH  
TO THE PLANET **RIGEL**...

...AND TO  
THE **SPACE  
LOCK**  
WHICH  
THREATENS  
THOSE WHO  
DWELL  
UPON  
**EARTH**!





MEANWHILE, BACK UPON THE IMPERILED PLANET WHICH WE MARVELITES CALL HOME, THE FEMALE COLONIZER WHO HAD BEEN KNOWN AS **TANA NILE** NOW DARINGLY APPEARS IN PUBLIC...

SINCE I HAVE CLAIMED THIS WORLD FOR MY OWN, I MUST ALLOW MY SUBJECTS TO RECOGNIZE THEIR NEW MASTER!

POOR, PITIFUL HUMANS! SO MYSTIFIED... SO HELP-LESS!



MY CONTROL OF EARTH IS NOW **ABSOLUTE!** ACCORDING TO MY **WRIST COMPUTOSCOPE**, THE SPACE LOCK BEAM HAS COMPLETELY ENCIRCLED THIS PLANET!

THEREFORE, THE TIME IS COME TO TAKE OVER THE REINS OF GOVERNMENT FROM THE SUBJECT HUMANS!

WHAT IN THE NAME OF J. EDGAR HOOVER IS THAT??!



BEGGIN' YOUR PARDON, LADY... IF THAT'S WHAT YOU ARE... ARE YOU, EH, LOOKIN' FOR SOMETHING?

YOU MAY ADDRESS ME AS **EMPRESS**... FOR, I AM YOUR NEW SOVEREIGN --- **TANA THE FIRST!**

WHY DO I GET ALL THE KOOKS AND ODDBALLS ON MY BEAT??!

GLAD TO MEETCHA, **EMPRESS!**

NATURALLY!



WOULDJA LIKE ME TO TAKE YOU TO OUR **LEADER?**

INDEED! THAT IS EXACTLY WHAT I HAD IN MIND!

IT IS TIME FOR ME TO **ABOLISH** ALL OF EARTH'S GOVERNMENTS... AND ASSUME COMMAND MYSELF!

SHE'S GOTTA BE PUTTIN' ME ON! BUT, I'LL PLAY ALONG WITH HER TILL WE REACH THE PRECINCT!

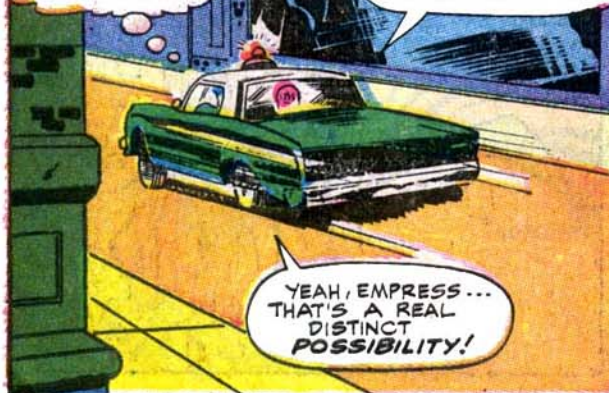
FOR ALL I KNOW, WE'RE BOTH ON **CANDID CAMERA!**



TAKE ME DIRECTLY TO THE **UNITED NATIONS!** WHEN I'M DONE, I SHALL APPOINT YOU IMPERIAL CHAUFFEUR TO THE COLONIAL EMPRESS!

MOST OF 'EM JUST THINK THEY'RE **NAPOLEON**... BUT THIS ONE'S GOT **UPMANSHIP!**

OF COURSE, SOME MAY NOT BELIEVE THAT EARTH IS NOW IN MY CONTROL...



YEAH, EMPRESS... THAT'S A REAL DISTINCT POSSIBILITY!

BUT, THEY WILL NOT DOUBT ME FOR LONG!

FOR, EVEN AS WE SPEAK, MY UN-BREAKABLE **SPACE LOCK** IS SLOWLY PULLING EARTH OUT OF ITS **NATURAL ORBIT**... AND ONLY I CAN BRING IT **BACK AGAIN!**



HOOO BOY! WHAT MAKES YOU THINK ANYONE'LL DOUBT A NICE, SENSIBLE STORY LIKE THAT?



AND, AN INCALCULABLE NUMBER OF LIGHT YEARS AWAY, THE COLONIZERS... KNOWING OF THOR'S INVASION OF THEIR REALM... SEND AN **INDESTRUCTIBLE** TO DEAL WITH THE MIGHTY THUNDER GOD...

OUR **INDESTRUCTIBLE** SHALL REACH THE INVADER WITHIN **SECONDS!**

NOTHING CAN WITHSTAND HIS MECHANICAL MIGHT! HE HAS HIS ORDERS!

I MUST DESTROY THE CREATURE FROM THE DISTANT SOLAR SYSTEM! ... ALL OTHER COMMANDS HAVE BEEN ERASED!

MY SOLE PURPOSE IS TO SERVE THE COLONIZERS! THE STRANGER FROM SPACE MUST BE SLAIN!

SHOOOM!

SOME TYPE OF **HUMANOID**, STREAKING SKYWARD IN FRONT OF MY SHIP! I MUST LEARN HIS MISSION!

BUT, NO SOONER DOES THE NOBLE THUNDER GOD BRING HIS SPACECRAFT TO A HALT, WHEN...

HE FIRES SOME SORT OF RAY AT ME!

IT DISPERSES THE VERY MOLECULES OF THE SHIP IN WHICH I RIDE!

THEN, BEFORE THE STARTLED EYES OF THE SON OF ODIN, THE SPACECRAFT'S WALL SEEMS TO DISSOLVE INTO NOTHINGNESS AS A **NULLIFIED-MOLECULAR-VACUUM** IS CREATED... ALLOWING THE **INDESTRUCTIBLE** TO PASS RIGHT THROUGH...!

THE-INTRUDER-MUST-DIE!

PREPARE TO MEET YOUR FATE!

AN **INDESTRUCTIBLE**! YOU ARE DOOMED, THUNDER GOD! NOTHING CAN SURVIVE HIS MERCILESS ATTACK!

BE THOU SILENT! THOR SHALL SURVIVE!

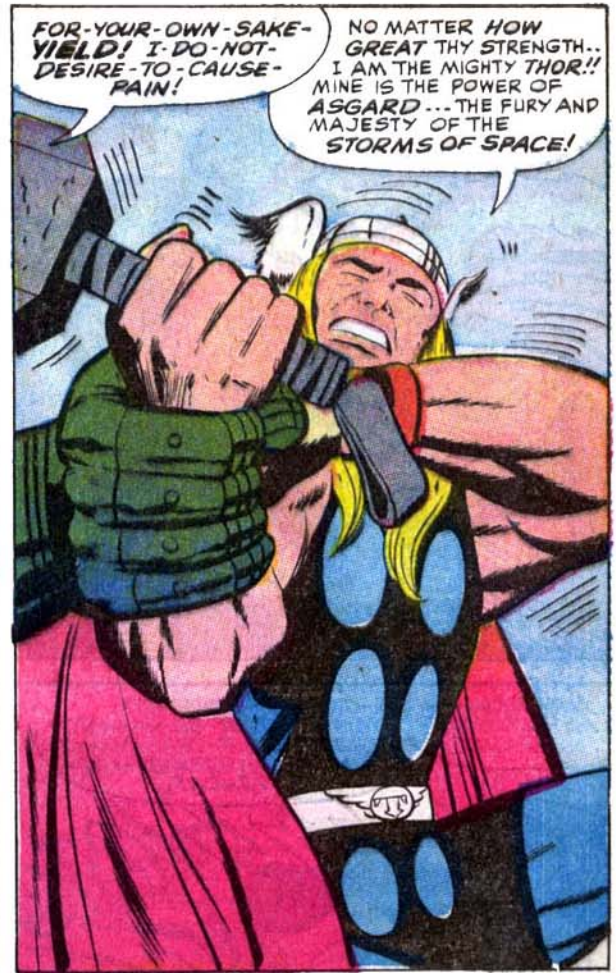




I-WAS-CREATED-TO-DEFEND-THE-WORLD-OF-RIGEL! MY-POWER-IS-SUPREME!

STRUGGLE-NOT! YOUR-END-SHALL-BE-SWIFT-AND-PAINLESS!

HIS GRIP IS STRONGER THAN ANY I HAVE EVER FELT!



FOR-YOUR-OWN-SAKE-YIELD! I-DO-NOT-DESIRE-TO-CAUSE-PAIN!

NO MATTER HOW GREAT THY STRENGTH... I AM THE MIGHTY THOR!! MINE IS THE POWER OF ASGARD... THE FURY AND MAJESTY OF THE STORMS OF SPACE!



BY THE BRISTLING BEARD OF ODIN... NONE MAY CONQUER THOR!



THEN, AS THE INDESTRUCTIBLE SHRUGS OFF THE STAGGERING BLOW, AND LUMBERS FORWARD AGAIN, THE THUNDER GOD WHIRLS HIS ENCHANTED HAMMER SO FAST THAT IT BEGINS TO HEAT ITS OWN ATOMS...

BACK, THOU UNSPEAKABLE MOCKERY OF ALL THAT BE MORTAL!

YOU-ARE-TOO-POWERFUL... TO-LIVE!



THOUGH-YOUR-HAMMER-HAS-BECOME-AN-ATOMIC-FLARE... STILL-AM-I-UNHARMED! STILL-AM-I-INDESTRUCTIBLE!

NOW-STAND-READY-FOR-YOUR-DOOM!



HE WITHSTANDS A PLANET-SHAKING ATOMIC STORM AS THOUGH IT BE A MILD SUMMER RAIN!

TRULY, HE HATH BEEN NAMED INDESTRUCTIBLE FOR GOOD AND PROPER REASON!



AND-NOW---MY-ULTIMATE-WEAPON!

A-GAMMA-POWERED-IMMOBILIZER-BEAM...SO-IRRESISTIBLE-THAT-EVEN-I-CANNOT-WITHSTAND-ITS-TOUCH!

A PITY THY SPEED IS NOT THE EQUAL OF THY POWER!

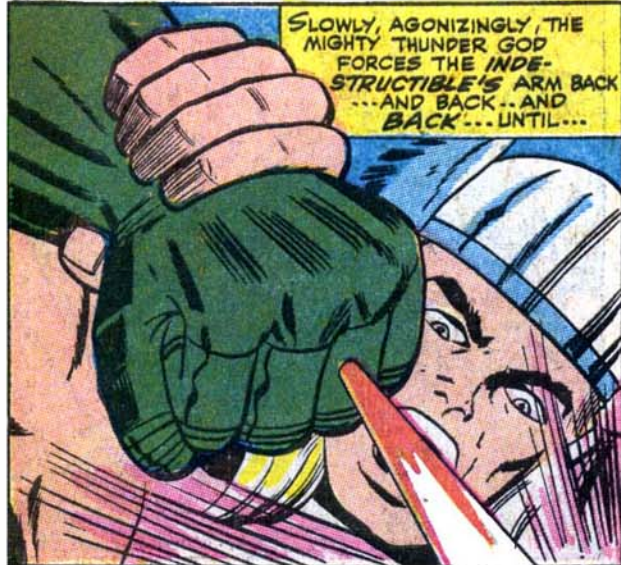


NO MATTER HOW INFALLIBLE... HOW DEADLY THY RAY MAY BE...

... UNLESS IT DOTH STRIKE THY VICTIM, IT IS AS NAUGHT!



SLOWLY, AGONIZINGLY, THE MIGHTY THUNDER GOD FORCES THE INDESTRUCTIBLE'S ARM BACK...AND BACK...AND BACK...UNTIL...



--THE AWESOME CREATURE SLUMPS TO THE FLOOR-- MOTIONLESS... HAVING BEEN FELLED BY THE IMPACT OF ITS OWN ULTIMATE WEAPON!

IT IS DONE!

NEVER BEFORE HAS AN INDESTRUCTIBLE SUFFERED SUCH DEFEAT!

NEVER HATH ONE FOUGHT THE GOD OF THUNDER!







AND NOW, ON TO THE SPACE LOCK!! NO POWER IN THE UNIVERSE SHALL STOP ME FROM RENDING IT ASUNDER!

WE MUST OBEY! HIS POWER IS BEYOND ALL COMPREHENSION!

SO LONG AS THOR ENDURES, EARTH SHALL NEVER BE HOSTAGE TO THE LIKES OF THEE!

ONLY THE BLACK GALAXY ITSELF CAN SO FILL MY HEART WITH FEAR!



AND, EVEN AS THE DISHEARTENED COLONIZERS MENTION THE MYSTERIOUS BLACK GALAXY... AT THAT VERY INSTANT... ACROSS THE VASTNESS OF SPACE... A GIGANTIC, HEAVILY-ARMED RIGEL SPACE CRUISER IS ATTACKED AND DESTROYED BY A DEADLY BEAM FROM THE FORBIDDEN GALAXY..!

BWEFFOK!



WHILE, IN THE RIGEL CONTROL CENTRAL, A WEARY, BROODING MAN WATCHES THE SCENE OF DISASTER ON HIS ELECTRONIC VISO-SCANNERS! FOR LONG, SILENT SECONDS HE SITS, STARING THOUGHTFULLY AT THE COMPLEX RADARSCOPIC SYMBOLS, UNTIL AN EXCITED VOICE SHATTERS THE STILLNESS...

OBSERVER  
3B-Y  
REPORTING,  
EXCELLENCY!

IT HAS JUST BEEN  
LEARNED THAT THE  
BEING FROM EARTH  
HAS DEFEATED THE  
INDESTRUCTIBLE!

EVEN NOW, THE  
FEARSOME  
INVADER SPEEDS  
TOWARDS OUR  
SPACE LOCK  
SECTOR!

BEGONE! YOU TELL ME  
NOTHING I DO NOT ALREADY  
KNOW!

NEVER HAS THE  
WORLD OF RIGEL BEEN  
FACED WITH SUCH  
CALAMITY! NEVER  
HAS THE FUTURE  
SEEMED SO GRAVE!

I NEVER DESIRED TO BE GRAND  
COMMISSIONER OF RIGEL! THE  
BURDENS OF MY SUPREME OFFICE  
ARE TOO MUCH FOR ANY ONE MAN!

BUT, SINCE MY I.Q. RATING IS  
HIGHEST IN ALL THIS SECTOR, IT  
HAS BEEN MY DUTY TO SERVE!

YET NOW, AFTER ALL  
THESE  
DECADES...  
WE ARE  
THREATENED  
WITH...  
DISASTER!

EACH DAY, THE DANGER FROM THE BLACK  
GALAXY GROWS GREATER! AND NOW, A POWER-  
FUL INVADER FROM THE SOLAR SYSTEM DARES  
TO ATTACK US!

THOUGH  
THEY ARE TWO SEPARATE  
PROBLEMS... EVEN NOW MY  
BRAIN IS FORMULATING A  
PLAN... A PLAN WHEREIN I  
MAY SOLVE THEM BOTH...  
WITH BUT ONE STROKE!

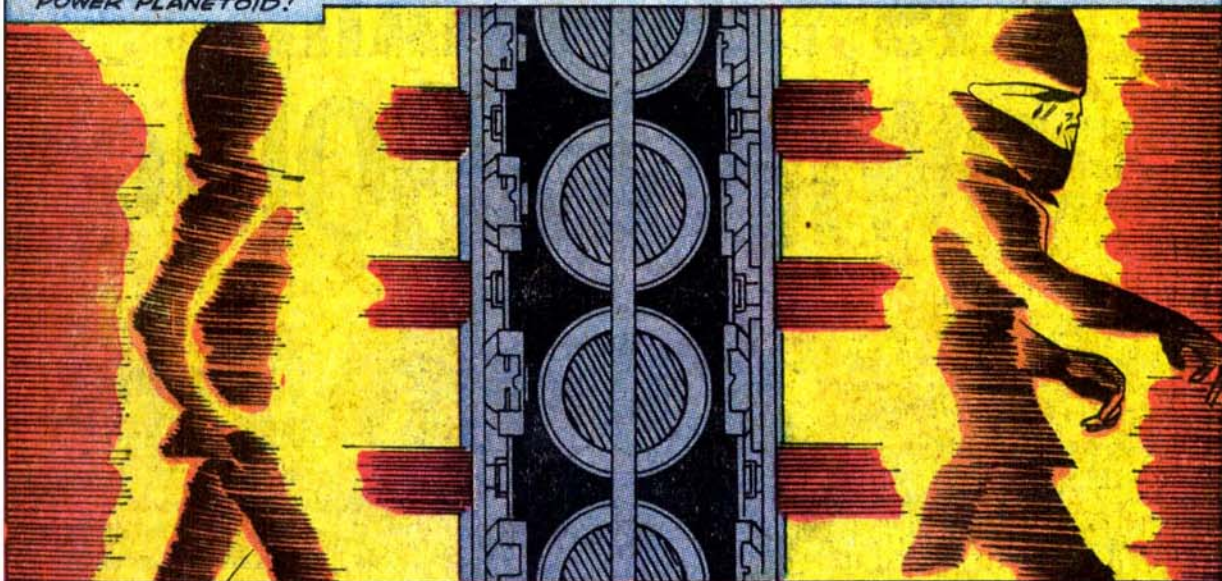
ATTENDANT!!  
ACTIVATE THE  
OFFICIAL  
MATTER  
TRANSMITTER!

I MUST  
SPEED  
TO OUR  
POWER  
PLANETOID  
AT ONCE!

AS YOUR  
EXCELLENCY  
COMMANDS!



IN A MATTER OF SECONDS, THE **GRAND COMMISSIONER** STEPS INTO THE **STRUCTURAL DISSEMBLER** ON THE HOME PLANET, AND EMERGES IN THE **STRUCTURAL RESTORER** UPON THE CLOSELY-GUARDED **POWER PLANETOID!**

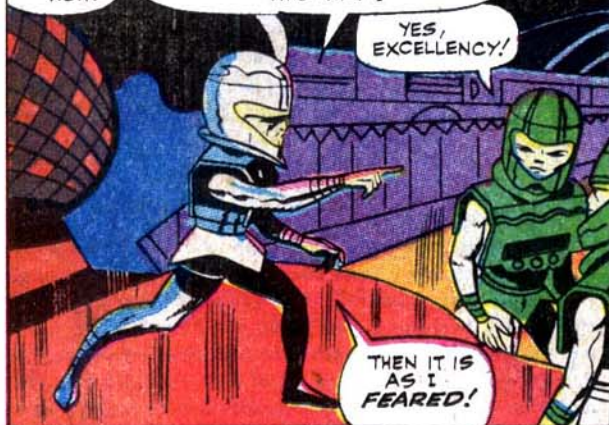


**YOUR EXCELLENCY!** HAD WE KNOWN OF YOUR ARRIVAL, WE WOULD HAVE MUSTERED THE **HONOR GUARD!**

**NO TIME FOR THAT NOW!** ARE YOUR **OBSERVO-LENSES** STILL TRACKING THE INVADER'S APPROACH? IS HE STILL HEADED THIS WAY?

YES, EXCELLENCY!

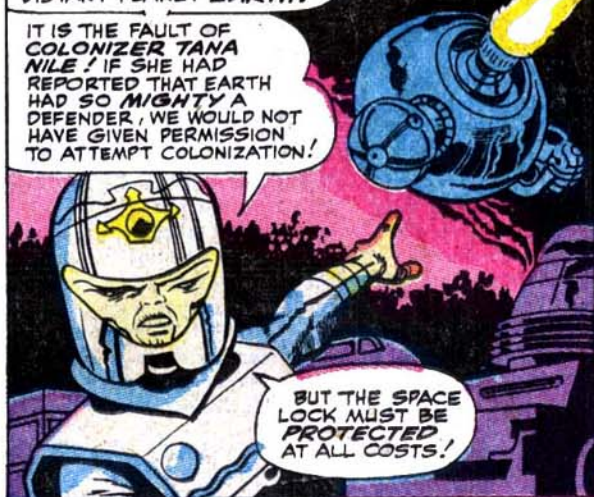
THEN IT IS AS I **FEARED!**



HE COMES TO ATTACK OUR **SPACE LOCK**, TO FREE THE DISTANT PLANET **EARTH!**

IT IS THE FAULT OF **COLONIZER TANA NILE!** IF SHE HAD REPORTED THAT EARTH HAD SO **MIGHTY** A DEFENDER, WE WOULD NOT HAVE GIVEN PERMISSION TO ATTEMPT COLONIZATION!

BUT THE **SPACE LOCK** MUST BE **PROTECTED** AT ALL COSTS!



AND, AS FATE WOULD HAVE IT, AT THAT SELF-SAME INSTANT...

I SEE THE **SPACE LOCK** NOW!

DRAW **CLOSER** TO IT, AND TO THE **PLANETOID** OVER WHICH IT ORBITS!



NOW, **HOLD THY COURSE**, AS I SHATTER YON EVIL DEVICE WITH BUT ONE BLOW OF MY **URU HAMMER!**





BUT, BEFORE THE THUNDER GOD CAN HURL HIS ENCHANTED Mallet, AN INVISIBLE TRACTOR FORCE ZEROES IN ON HIS MAJESTIC FIGURE, DRAWING HIM IRRESISTIBLY TOWARDS THE PLANETOID BELOW...

WE'VE GOT HIM!

BY THE GOLDEN SPIRES OF ASGARD... WHAT WITCHERY IS THIS?!!

AN UNSEEN **FORCE**... DRAWING ME DOWN... TO WHERE YON COLONIZERS WAIT TO ATTACK ME BELOW!

BUT, THEY SHALL LEARN... TO THEIR ETERNAL **DISMAY**... IT IS **THOR** WHO ATTACKS!! IT IS **THOR** WHO WIELDS THE **POWER**!

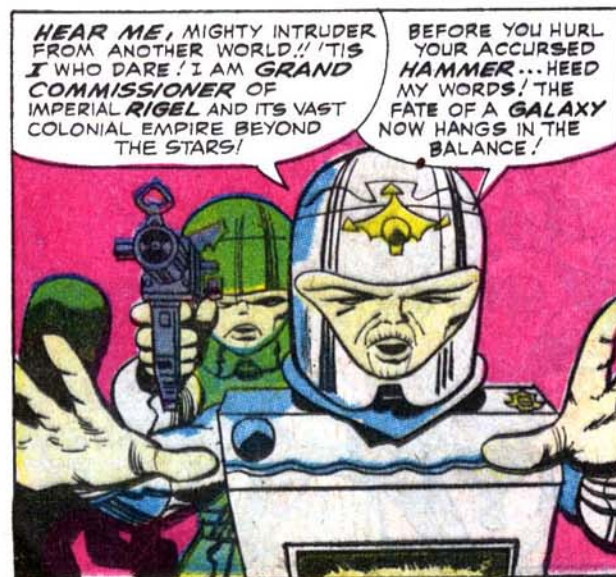
BACK, YE SCURRILOUS KNAVES!! THOUGH YE BE MANY AS THE SANDS ON THE SHORE... **NONE** MAY STAY MY HAMMER'S VENGEANCE!

BACK, THEN, BEFORE THE FURY OF A GOD!! MY WRATH SHALL BE UNABATED SO LONG AS YONDER SPACE LOCK ENDURES!

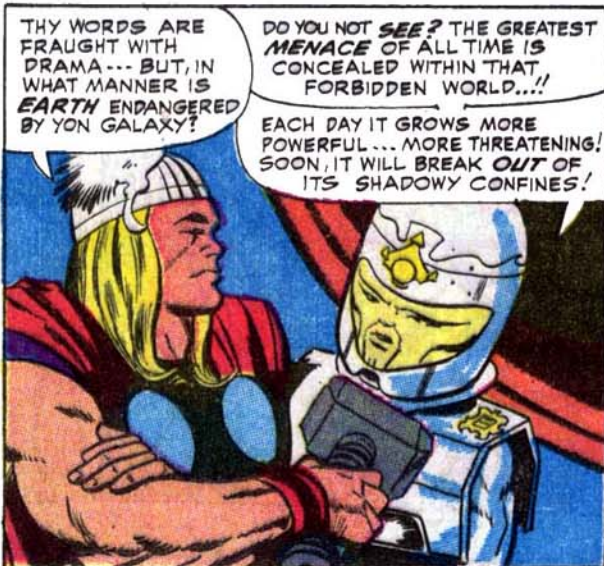
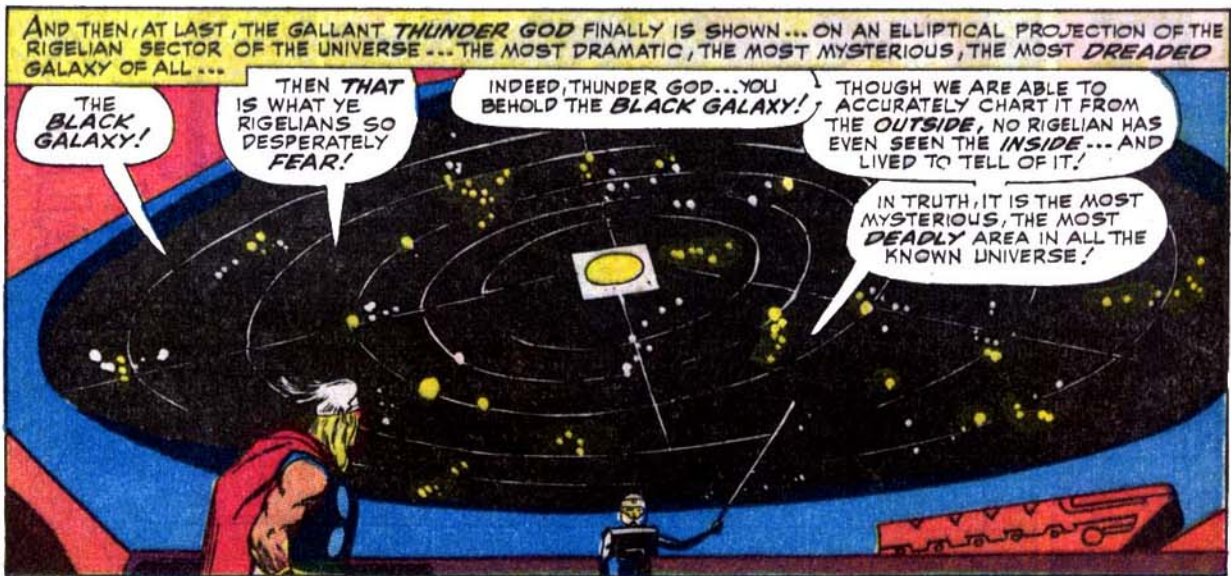
EARTH IS NO UNPROTECTED WASTELAND, TO BE CONQUERED AND PILLAGED BY SUCH AS THEE!

SKAK!











BUT, BACK ON EARTH ONCE AGAIN, **ANOTHER JOURNEY** IS ALSO IN PROGRESS ...

IT'S SO  
**DESOLATE**  
DOWN THERE...  
SO LONELY...



I WANT TO **RETURN**...TO GO  
BACK, AND SEE THE MAN I  
LOVE ONCE AGAIN...TO FEEL  
THE STRONG ARMS OF **THOR**  
AROUND ME...BUT...I  
**CANNOT**...!

PARDON ME, MISS!  
THE WAY YOU'VE  
BEEN STARING OUT  
OF THAT WINDOW...  
FOR HOURS... SO  
SILENTLY... IS... IS  
ANYTHING **WRONG**?



I...I DON'T KNOW! I **HAD** TO TAKE  
THIS PLANE... SOMETHING  
**COMPELLED** ME!

STRANGE...I,  
TOO, HAD NO  
OTHER CHOICE!

I **HAD** TO GET AWAY...  
ALTHOUGH I'M NOT  
SURE **WHY**...!



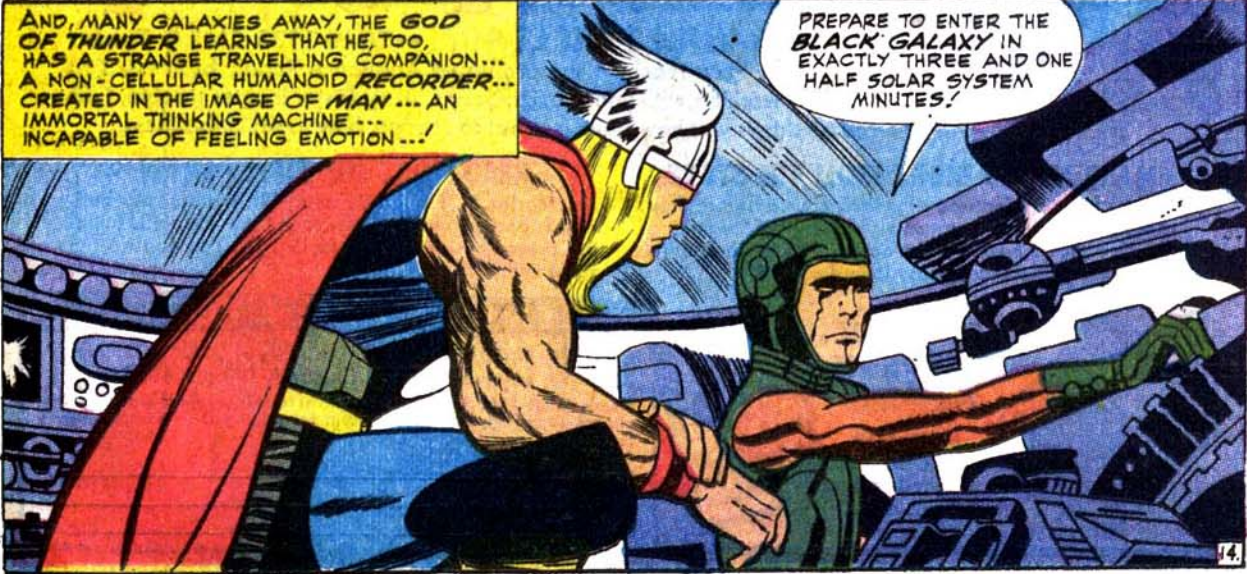
**TANA NILE** TOLD ME TO LEAVE... AND, I CANNOT  
DISOBEY HER! I MUST KEEP TRAVELLING...  
TRAVELLING...!

AND SO, ONCE AGAIN  
WE TAKE OUR LEAVE OF  
LOVELY **JANE FOSTER**,  
WHILE HER INQUISITIVE  
FELLOW PASSENGER  
STUDIES HER THOUGHT-  
FULLY... APPRAISINGLY...  
AS THE GIANT JET ROARS  
ON INTO THE GATHERING  
DUSK...



AND, MANY GALAXIES AWAY, THE **GOD**  
OF **THUNDER** LEARNS THAT HE, TOO,  
HAS A STRANGE TRAVELLING COMPANION...  
A NON-CELLULAR HUMANOID **RECORDER**...  
CREATED IN THE IMAGE OF **MAN**... AN  
IMMORTAL THINKING MACHINE...  
INCAPABLE OF FEELING EMOTION...!

PREPARE TO ENTER THE  
**BLACK GALAXY** IN  
EXACTLY THREE AND ONE  
HALF SOLAR SYSTEM  
MINUTES!





ALREADY THE STYGIAN  
DARKNESS LOOMS  
AHEAD... BLOTING OUT  
THE COMFORTING GLOW  
OF A THOUSAND STARS...!



MY MEMORY BANKS  
INFORM ME THAT WE ARE  
THE FIRST BEINGS TO  
ENTER THE BLACK  
GALAXY WITHOUT  
BEING ATTACKED BY  
BLAST RAYS!

PERHAPS THOSE  
WHO DWELL WITHIN  
ARE AWARE THAT  
WE ARE NOT  
COLONIZERS!



WE HAVE LEFT THE KNOWN UNIVERSE BEHIND!!  
WE ARE COMPLETELY *WITHIN* THE DARKNESS-  
SHROUDED BLACK GALAXY! WE MUST NOT  
RELAX OUR *VIGILANCE* FOR AN INSTANT!



I AM *EVER*  
VIGILANT! I HAVE  
BEEN *PROGRAMMED*  
TO REQUIRE NO  
REST..NO SLEEP!

LOOK! STRANGE, UNSTABLE,  
WRITHING *SHAPES*... SOME  
AS LARGE AS FIERY STARS...  
STREAKING THROUGH THE  
DARKNESS... ACROSS THE  
VAST, ENDLESS IMMENSITY..



I COMPUTE THAT WE ARE WITHIN AN INCREDIBLE  
UNIVERSE, COMPOSED OF LIVING, BIOLOGICAL  
MATTER!

NO!! IT IS NOT A UNIVERSE! IT  
IS FAR MORE *FANTASTIC*! IT  
IS ACTUALLY A *BIO-VERSE*!



A *BIO-VERSE*??!

BUT, BEFORE THE HUMANOID HAS A CHANCE TO  
EXPLAIN...

OUT THERE! THAT  
IS THE OBJECTIVE  
WE SEEK... THE  
MENACE WHICH  
MAKES EVEN  
COLONIZERS  
TREMBLE...!







I HAVE  
BEEN  
**WAITING**  
FOR YOU!

I AM  
**EGO!**

NEXT ISSUE: **THE LIVING PLANET!**



# "THE DARK HORSE OF DEATH!"

NOW THAT WE HAVE  
DEFEATED THE *NORGES*  
OF *HAROKIN*, IT IS TIME  
FOR US TO *REST*,  
WARRIORS OF ASGARD!

EVEN NOW, THE  
BARBARIAN CHIEFTAIN  
LIES A'BED, NURSING  
HIS BATTLE WOUNDS!

'T WAS A ZESTFUL  
SKIRMISH! A PITY  
IT MUST NEEDS COME  
TO SO UNTIMELY AN  
END!

REST? THAT IS  
FOR LESSER BEINGS!  
THE VIGILANT *VOLSTAGG*  
SHALL REMAIN EVER  
ALERT!

NAIL TO  
ASGARD! MAY  
ITS GLORY ENDURE  
FORE'ER!

I HEREBY  
DECLARE THE  
LAND OF *MUSPEL-  
HEIM* LIBERATED!  
THUS SPEAKS  
*THOR*, SON OF  
IMPERIAL  
*ODIN*!

SCRIPT WRITING:  
**STAN LEE**  
PICTURE DRAWING:  
**JACK KIRBY**  
PANEL INKING:  
**VINCE COLLETTA**  
WORD LETTERING:  
**SAM ROSEN**  
ARMOR POLISHING:  
**IRVING FORBUSH**



WARRIORS OF  
THE REALM!  
STAND YE FORTH!

YE HAVE FOUGHT THE GOOD FIGHT!  
THE GOD OF THUNDER BIDS  
THEE A STOUT WELL DONE!

AND NOW, THOU ART  
DISMISSED!

SUMMON THEE MY  
TRUSTED LIEUTENANTS  
TO THE SIDE OF THOR!

THEN, AS **VOLSTAGG** THE VAINGLORIOUS, **HOGUN** THE  
GRIM, AND **FANDRAL** THE DASHING REPORT TO THEIR  
VALIANT WARLORD, THE IMMORTAL WARRIORS PREPARE  
TO ATTEND THEIR BATTLE WOUNDS AND REFRESH THEM-  
SELVES AT THE WATERS OF THE BATH...

DIDST THOU SEE HOW BRAVE MEN **TREMLED** WHEN  
THEY BEHELD THE FIERCE VISAGE OF THE VALOROUS  
**VOLSTAGG**!

**TREMLED INDEED!**  
METHINKS THEY DID BUT ROAR  
WITH **LAUGHTER** AT THY GIRTH!

IT MATTERS NOT...  
SO LONG AS THE  
VICTORY BE  
OURS!

TRULY, **HOGUN**,  
THOUGH THOU BE  
A **MASTER** IN  
BATTLE, THOU  
ART BUT A  
**FLEDGLING**  
IN MATTERS OF  
**HUMOR**!

HUMOR?

HOGUN THE  
GRIM HAS  
NO TIME FOR  
SUCH SENSE-  
LESS PRATTLE!

AY, **HOGUN** AND **VOLSTAGG** ARE OF ONE  
MIND! WE LEAVE THE MERRYMAKING TO  
OTHERS WHILST WE LIVE FOR **BATTLE**!

WOULD THAT  
THE GURGLING  
WATERS COULD  
DROWN THE BRAY-  
ING SOUND OF  
**VOLSTAGG'S**  
ETERNAL  
**BOASTING**!

BUT, A SHORT TIME LATER, AS THE MATCHLESS WARRIORS  
TAKE THEIR WELL-EARNED REST, THE SLOW, MOURNFUL  
BEAT OF A MUFFLED **DRUM** ISSUES FORTH FROM THE  
DEFEATED **BARBARIANS**...

**THOOM! THOOM!**

**THOOM!**





WHAT FOUL  
INFAMY IS THIS??  
DO THEY DARE SUMMON  
THEIR FORCES AGAINST  
US ONCE MORE?

NAY,  
VOLSTAGG!  
'TIS THE DRUM-  
BEAT OF  
MOURNING  
THOU DOST HEAR  
... **NOT** THE  
CLARION CALL  
TO COMBAT!



WE'LL DO IT  
I KNOW THAT  
OMINOUS  
DRUMBEAT!

IT SUMMONS THE  
GREAT BLACK  
STALLION OF  
DOOM!

IT MEANS  
THE DEATH  
OF A MIGHTY  
WARRIOR IS  
NEAR AT HAND!



AND, FROM THE FURTHERMOST OUTPOST, THE DREAD  
CRY IS SOUNDED ...

IT COMES!  
IT COMES!

TRAGEDY  
AWAITS US!  
BEHOLD THE  
STALLION  
OF DOOM!



THE GATES OF MUSPELHEIM  
SWING OPEN WIDE... FOR  
NONE DARE OPPOSE THE  
FEARSOME BEAST AS IT  
SPEEDS UPON ITS GRIM,  
UNALTERABLE MISSION...

ITS  
UNBLINKING  
EYES GLOW  
LIKE TWIN  
DEMONS!

CLOP!  
CLOP!

CLOP!



THE FEARFUL FLEE BEFORE THE MIGHTY EBONY STALLION...WHILE THOSE OF STOUTER HEART STAND FAST! YET, EACH MAN KNOWS THAT THE BEAST WILL STOP BEFORE *ONE WARRIOR*... THE ONE WHO IS FATED TO DIE!

HE HATH PASSED ME BY! THE GODS BE PRAISED!

I MUST FLEE!  
I CANNOT PEER INTO THOSE BLAZING EYES!

FLIGHT IS USELESS!  
WHAT IS TO BE... IS TO BE!

LET US REPAIR TO THE CHAMBER OF HAROKIN! HIS BARBARIANS ARE ON THE VERGE OF PANIC!

AY! A WORD FROM THEIR CHIEFTAIN MAY QUIET THEIR FEARS!

FEAR? SUCH A WORD IS TRULY A *STRANGER* TO THE LION-HEARTED VOLSTAGG!

THEN WHY DID THE DRUM-BEATS CAUSE THEE TO TREMBLE?

TUSH, HOGUN! I WAS BUT CHILLED BY THE COOL NORTH WIND!

IN JULY, ENORMOUS ONE?

THERE, AHEAD OF US...THERE HAROKIN IS BEDDED!

HOW FARES THE FALLEN CHIEFTAIN?

HIS WOUNDS ARE MANY, THUNDER GOD! THEY DO SAP HIS REMAINING STRENGTH!

A BLACK STALLION HAS ENTERED THE BATTLE-MENTS!

AHH! THE DARK HORSE OF DEATH! SO...HE HAS COME AT LAST!



