

THOR

MARVEL COMICS GROUP™



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THE  
MIGHTY

# THOR



SLAY HIM,  
MY CHILDREN!  
THIS DAY,  
THOR DIES--

--BY THE  
HAND OF  
THOSE WHO  
LOVE HIM!!



## THE MARK OF MEPHISTO!



# THE MIGHTY THOR!

## A WORLD GONE MAD!

THAT IS  
WHAT YOU'RE  
THINKING, ISN'T  
IT, THOR? A  
COSMOS CAST  
INTO CHAOS--

--A UNIVERSE  
WITHOUT REASON  
OR RHYME!  
YES, I SEE IT IN  
YOUR EYES, MY  
QUAINT AND MORAL  
ASSGARDIAN--

YOU FEAR  
MY LAND AS  
I DO YOURS--

--A LAND  
YOU CANNOT  
UNDERSTAND--  
A WORLD WHERE  
YOUR PRETTY  
CONSCIOUS HAS  
NO MEANING!

WELCOME  
TO HELL,  
THUNDER  
GOD!

WELCOME  
TO THE LAND--  
OF MEPHISTO!

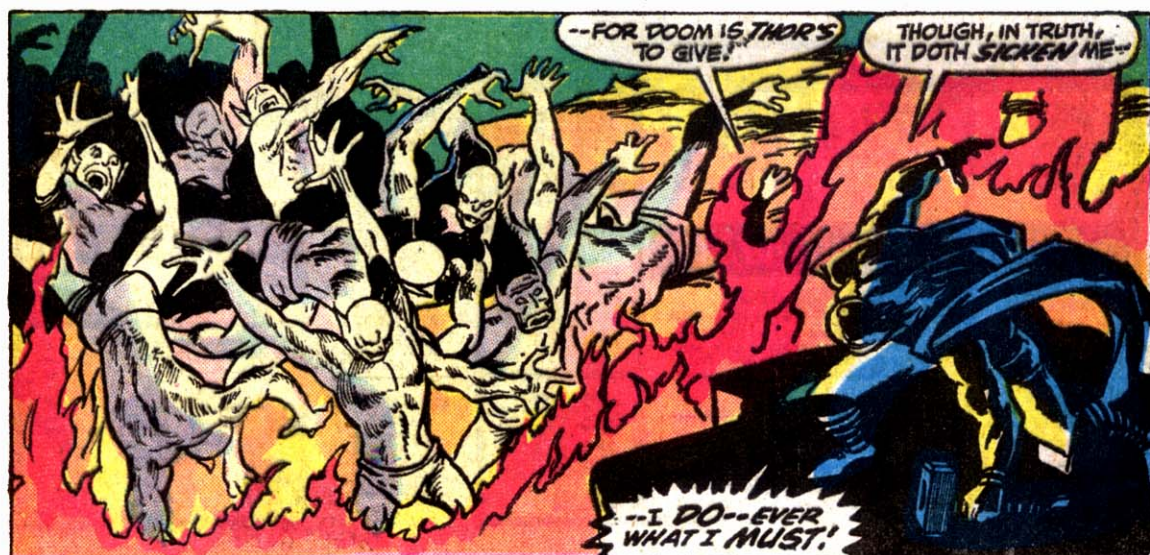
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NAY, SHE ANSWERS **NOT--** BUT DOTH SWING THIS SLASHING AXE INSTEAD

TRULY THOU HAST STOLEN HER VERY **MIND**, MEPHISTO--

--BUT IF THOU DOST HOPE TO MAKE ME CAUSE A **DEEPER BETRAYAL--**



--TO STRIKE **AGAINST** THE WOMAN I TRULY LOVE--AND SO BETRAY **MYSELF--**

THEN THINK THEE **AGAIN**, VILLAIN!

THERE BE **OTHER** MEANS TO AN END--



--AND I SHALL **USE** THOSE MEANS--

--AND FIGHT THEE TILL THIS COWARDLY SPELL HATH **PASSED--**

YEA, UNTO THE VERY END OF **TIME!**

SO IT WOULD **APPEAR**, ASGARDIAN.

SO IT WOULD **APPEAR.**



VERY WELL, THEN...YOU SHALL **HAVE** YOUR MINOR VICTORY!

IT MEANS **NAUGHT...** FOR THE **GREATEST** BATTLE IS YET TO COME...

...AND THAT, MY **ARROGANT** PUP, YOU SHALL **NEVER** WIN!





WE'LL SEE TO THAT WHEN THE MOMENT DOTH ARRIVE, MEPHISTO.

FOR THE NOUNCE, I AM SATISFIED...

MILADY DOTH SLEEP.



AND SHE WILL CONTINUE TO SLUMBER, THOR...

...AND WILL ONLY WAKE...WHEN THE WORLD ABOVE IS MINE.

OR WHEN THOU ART DESTROYED, MONSTER.

THE MORE LIKELY, METHINKS.



AH, FOOLISH, FOOLISH IMMORTAL!

YOU DO NOT YET UNDERSTAND, DO YOU, THOR?



THESE MEN MY DEMONS KIDNAPPED--

YOU THINK THEM INNOCENT-- VICTIMS IN A COSMIC SCHEME?

LOOK AGAIN, GODLING-- NOT VICTIMS, BUT PAWNS--



PAWNS? THOU DOST HINT AT DARKER THINGS, DEMON--

SPEAK CLEARLY-- AND IF THOU DOST MEAN WHAT I THINK THOU DOST MEAN--



OH, BUT I DO SPEAK CLEARLY, THUNDER GOD--

--WORDS WHICH WILL FIND CLARITY IN ACTION--

--YOU BUT REFUSE TO ACCEPT THE TRUTH OF MY WORDS--





"NOW, WATCH CAREFULLY, GODLING--LEST YOUR FEEBLE MIND REJECT THE WITNESS OF YOUR EYES, AS WELL AS YOUR EARS!"



"WATCH--AS HYKOS, ONE OF MY TRUSTED ELEMENTALS, STEPS LITHELY FORWARD FROM THAT DIMENSION IN WHICH HE NORMALLY EXISTS--"

"DO YOU SEE, THUNDER GOD--DO YOU OBSERVE, AS HIS BODY SEEMS TO DISSOLVE--TO MELT AND REFORM; SUBTLY ALTERED BY THE FORCE OF MEPHISTO'S ALL-ENCOMPASSING POWER--"



"--REFORMING INSIDE THE MORTAL'S HAPLESS SHELL, BECOMING--IN TERRIBLE EFFECT--A PART OF THAT SHELL--"

"--UNTIL SHELL AND GUIDING DEMON ARE JOINED--INEXTRICABLY, TOTALLY, AND ALL-PERVASIVELY ONE!"



AS YOU WISHED, MASTER--IT IS DONE.

HYKOS IS YOURS TO COMMAND!



HYKOS, YOU ARE A  
CONSTANT PLEASURE  
TO ME... AS USUAL,  
YOUR PERFORMANCE  
HAS BEEN QUITE  
SUPERLATIVE.

AND NOW, HYKOS...  
I WANT YOU TO  
MEET SOMEONE...

...A FUTILE LITTLE IMMORTAL  
WHO THINKS HE HAS THE  
POWER AND THE WILL  
TO DEFEAT ME!!

NONE WILL  
DEFEAT MEPHISTO--

HYKOS WILL  
SEE TO THAT!

THOU ART THE  
MOST DIABOLICAL  
OF CREATURES,  
MONSTER--

I SEE THY  
PLAN--AN ARMY  
OF THESE TRANS-  
FORMED  
MORTALS--

--SPIES  
FROM  
WITHIN  
THE  
ENTIRE  
HUMAN  
RACE!

'TIS A PLAN  
FOUL IN ITS  
CONCEPTION--

--EVIL IN  
ITS INCARNATION--

--AND  
DOOMED  
IN ITS  
FUNCTION!

ON THE CONTRARY,  
THUNDER GOD--

EVEN AS  
THESE SHEETS  
OF FLAME  
TURN YOUR  
HAND ASIDE--

--SO WILL THE IMAGE OF  
THE FAMILIAR, THE  
MUNDANE--THE ORDINARY--  
BLUNT THE FORCE OF  
MORTAL  
HEROES!

FOR, TELL ME, THOR--  
WHAT WEAKLING MAN  
WOULD FIGHT A FRIEND--  
A WIFE--A HUSBAND?

WOULD HE  
NOT DIE  
FIRST?

IF YOU  
THINK NOT--  
THEN LOOK  
BELOW--



"--AND TELL ME YOU WILL STRIKE BLOW FOR BLOW, WOUND FOR WOUND-- AGAINST THOSE YOU CALL COMPANIONS--AND FRIENDS!"

LIKE INSENTIENT AUTOMATONS, THE BEDEVILED ASGARDIAN GUARDSMEN STEP FORWARD FROM THE MISTY SHADOWS--



HOGUN, FANDRAL, BALDER--EVEN THE ONCE-VERBOSE VOISTAGG-- ALL APPROACH, THEIR SIGHTLESS EYES BETRAYING GRIM INTENT--



--AN INTENT GIVEN SILENT VOICE--IN ATTACK!

**SNAP!**

BRAVE BALDER--EVEN THEE?

BE NONE BUT THOR IMMUNE--?



--OR HAVE I BEEN SPARED TO SUFFER GREATER TORMENTS?

YEA, I SEE IT NOW--

WHEN E'EN COLD HOGUN DOTH TURN HIS MACE AGAINST ME--

**WHUMP!**



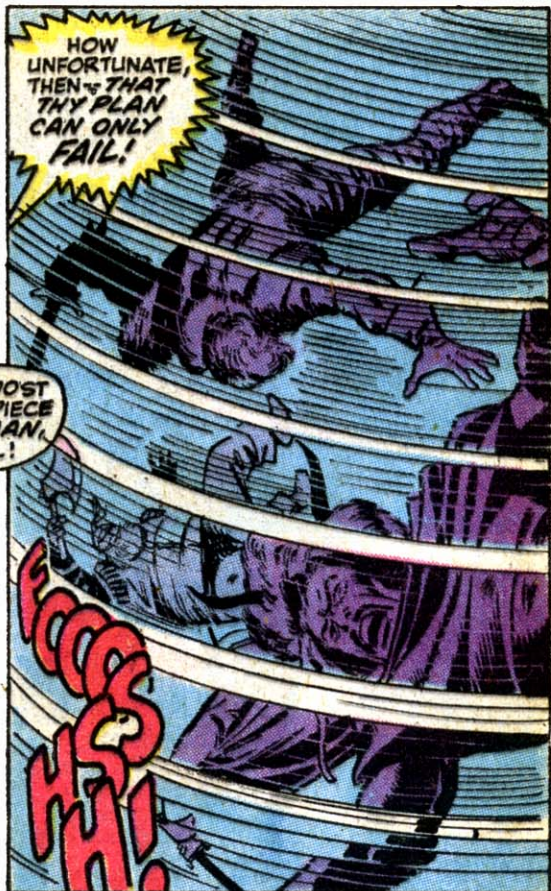


--WHAT RECOURSE HAVE I BUT DARK AND BITTER DESPAIR?

--FOR WHEN THOU DOST STEAL A MAN'S FRIEND--

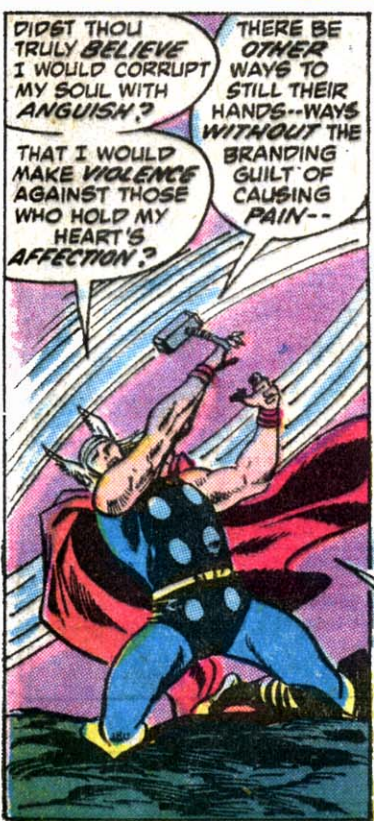
VERILY THOU ART THE WILDEST OF DEMONS, MEPHISTO--THOU DOST KNIFE TO THE VERY CORE OF MAN AND MORTAL--

--THOU DOST STEAL A PIECE OF THE MAN, AS WELL!



HOW UNFORTUNATE, THEN, THAT THY PLAN CAN ONLY FAIL!

POOR HSH!



DIDST THOU TRULY BELIEVE I WOULD CORRUPT MY SOUL WITH ANGUISH?

THAT I WOULD MAKE VIOLENCE AGAINST THOSE WHO HOLD MY HEART'S AFFECTION?

THERE BE OTHER WAYS TO STILL THEIR HANDS--WAYS WITHOUT THE BRANDING GUILT OF CAUSING PAIN--



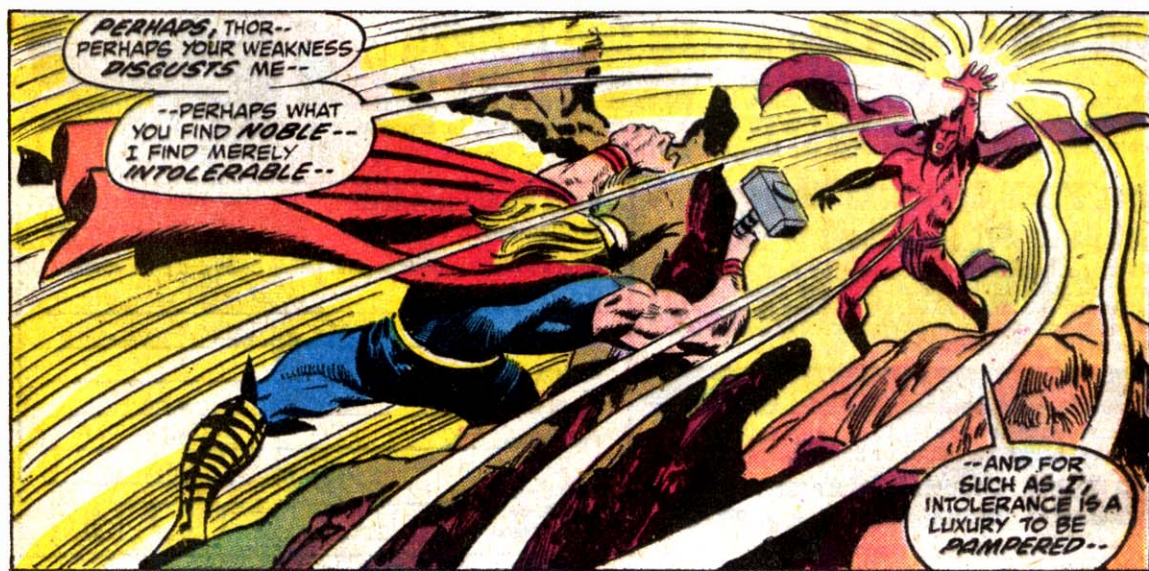
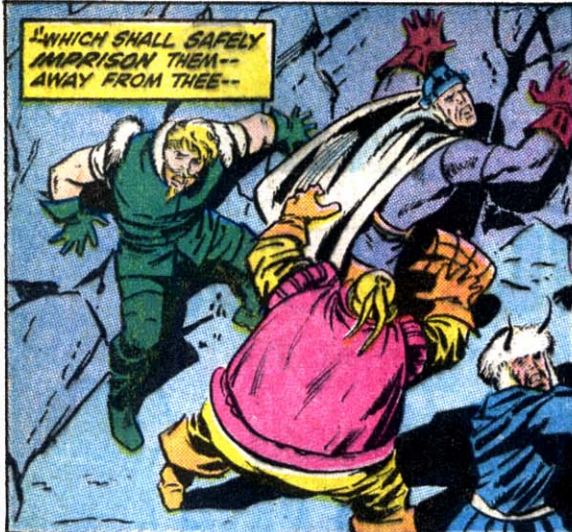
--AS, BY MEANS OF MJOLNIR'S STORM-SHACKLING POWER, I DO SURROUND THEM WITH A SPINNING VORTEX--

--AND SO TRANSPORT THEM TO A DISTANT, LONELY PEAK--



"WHERE OTHER OF THE HAMMER'S MANY SORCERIES CAUSE A HUNDRED-WEIGHT OF BOULDERS TO BE SUMMONED--







--JUST AS IT  
WAS PAMPERED--  
BY THEM!

"DO YOU RECOGNIZE THEM,  
ASGARDIAN? ARE THEIR  
FEATURES FAMILIAR, THEIR  
NAMES A HATED CURSE? AYE--  
THE GREATEST AND MOST  
INGENIOUS OF EARTH'S MANY  
VILLAINS--"

"--TRAGIC FIGURES ALL, CONDEMNED  
--OR REWARDED-- BY AN  
UNCARING UNIVERSE WITH ETERNAL  
EXILE TO THIS NAMELESS LAND--"

"--WHERE THEY  
ARE, OF COURSE,  
MY FAITHFUL  
SERVANTS--"

"--AND I--THEIR  
WORSHIPPED  
MASTER!"



"DO YOU SEE NOW HOW APOPELESS  
YOUR BLIND PERSISTENCE TRULY IS,  
BLONDHAIR? NO? THEN OBSERVE--  
FOR THE MOST EAGER OF MY  
SUBJECTS IS ANXIOUS TO BEGIN--

FORWARD, YOU FOOLS--  
LET NOTHING STAND  
IN YOUR WAY--

"--AND HE IS A LEADER  
IN THE MATTER OF CRUELTY--  
AND VIOLENT EFFICIENCY!"

ALL MUST BE  
CRUSHED--TRAMPLED--  
IN THE NAME OF  
MEPHISTO!

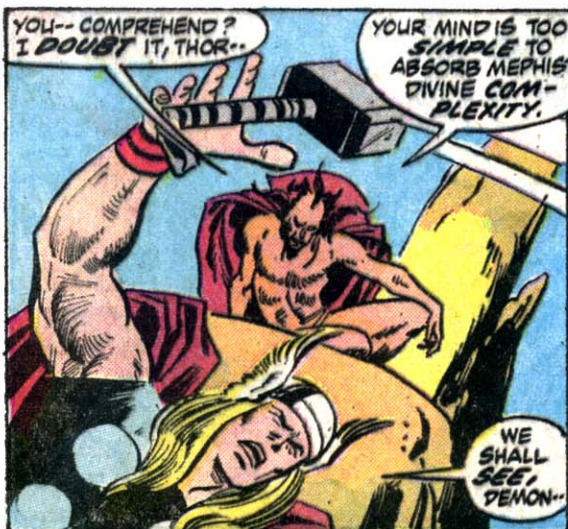


AT LAST, I  
DO BEGIN TO  
UNDERSTAND,  
NIGHT-  
CREATURE--

YET BEFORE  
I MAY TEST THAT  
DAWNING  
COMPREHENSION,  
I MUST ACT--



--AS ONLY  
THE THUNDER  
GOD MAY!



YOU-- COMPREHEND?  
I DOUBT IT, THOR--

YOUR MIND IS TOO  
SIMPLE TO  
ABSORB MEPHISTO'S  
DIVINE COM-  
PLEXITY.

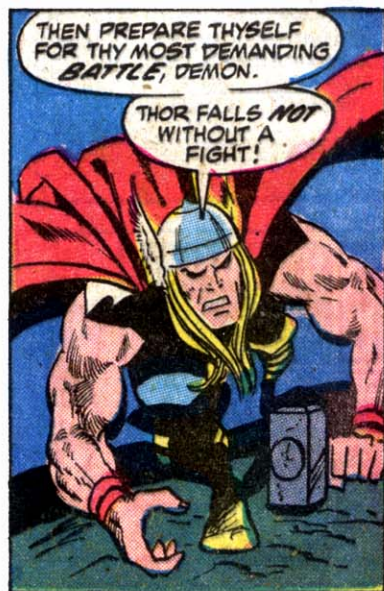
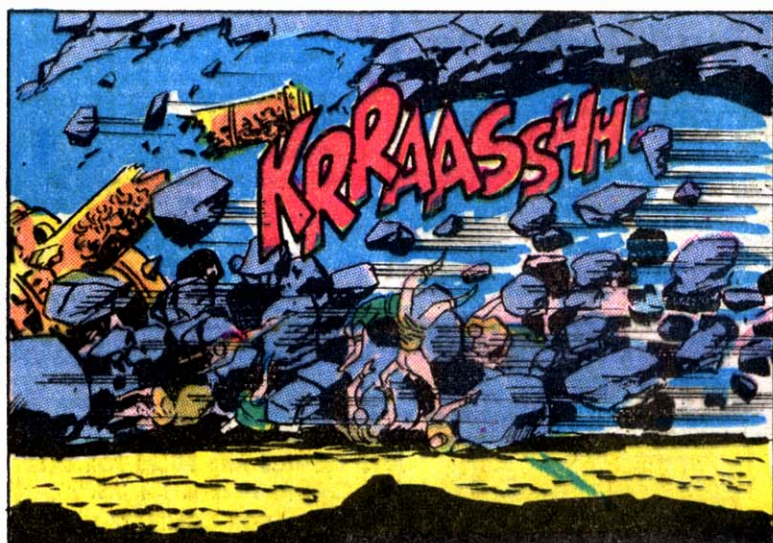
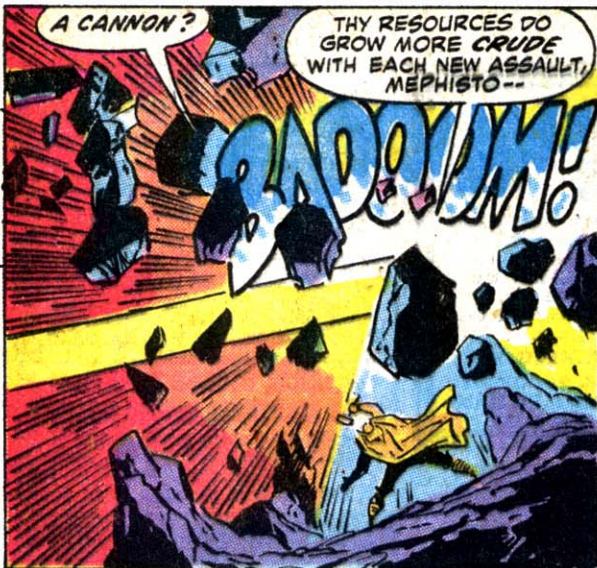
WE  
SHALL  
SEE,  
DEMON--



"--AS SOON AS I  
DO DISCERN  
YOUR NEW  
MENACE!

"EH? WHAT INFERNAL  
ENGINE--?"









'TIS A MATTER OF LITTLE CONSEQUENCE, GODLING!

THE LEGIONS OF THE LOST YEARN ALWAYS FOR THE TASTE OF KILLING...

...AND SEARCH ALWAYS FOR THE TORCH OF WAR!



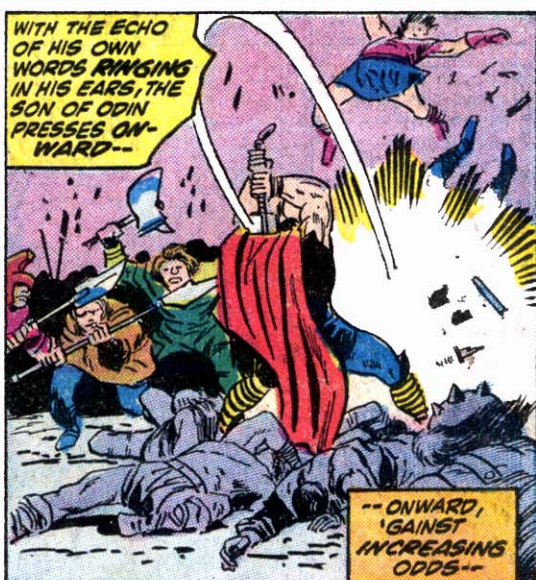
LET THEM COME, MEPHISTO-- FOR WHEN THE LAST GHOST DOTH FALL--



--SO ALSO SHALL MEPHISTO!

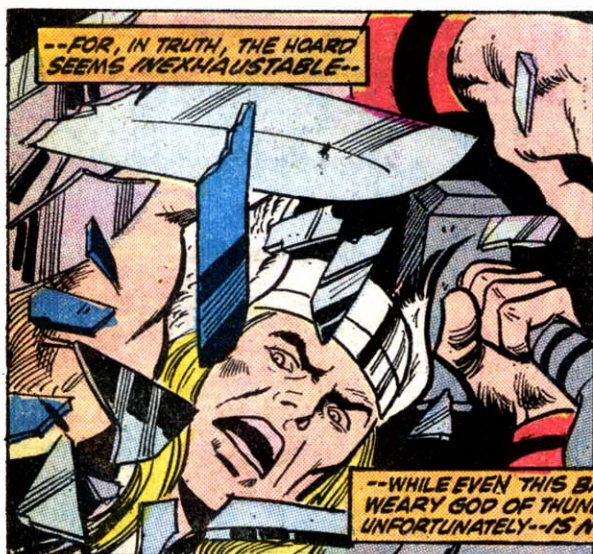
PERHAPS SO, THUNDER GOD.

WE SHALL SEE... SHALL WE NOT?



WITH THE ECHO OF HIS OWN WORDS RINGING IN HIS EARS, THE SON OF ODIN PRESSES ON-WARD--

--ONWARD, 'GAINST INCREASING ODDS--



--FOR, IN TRUTH, THE HOARD SEEMS INEXHAUSTABLE--

--WHILE EVEN THIS BATTLE-WEARY GOD OF THUNDER, UNFORTUNATELY--IS NOT!

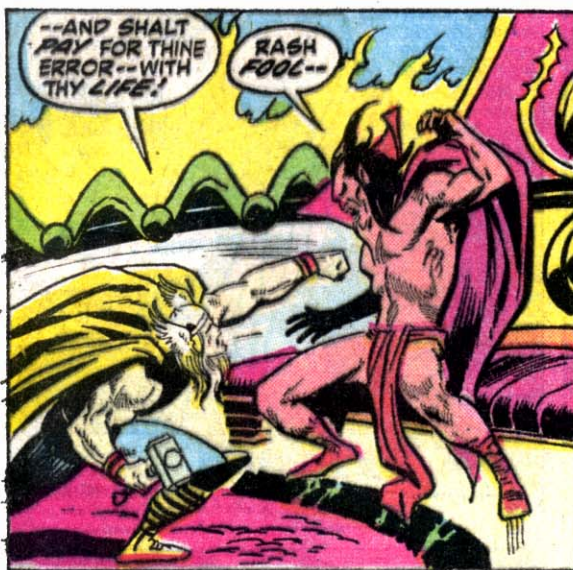


MINUTES BECOME HOURS, UNTIL FINALLY...

THE SOUND OUTSIDE CEASES.

A PITY, SYKOS, BRING ME WINE... I WOULD TOAST THE GODLING'S DEFEAT.









MY HAND--'TIS AS THOUGH  
IT IS **AFIRE--**

NEVER HAVE I  
FELT SUCH **PAIN--**  
SUCH **INCREDIBLE**  
**AGONY!**



AND YOU WILL  
FEEL **GREATER**  
**AGONY, GODLING--**

--SUFFERING  
SUCH AS NO  
MAN OR GOD  
HAS EVEN  
**KNOWN--**

--UNLESS  
YOU **SAVE**  
YOURSELF--  
BY SHIFTING  
ALLEGIANCE  
TO--  
**MEPHISTO!**



BETRAY MY  
LAND, MY  
LIFE--MY  
**LORD?**

ONLY **ONE**  
ANSWER MAY I  
GIVE--AND IT'S--

**NEVER!**



IT APPEARS MY SUSPICIONS  
WERE BASED ON **TRUTH.**

THOU DOST SEEK  
NOT MERELY TO  
**KILL ME--**

--BUT TO  
**ENSLAVE**  
YOU AS WELL!

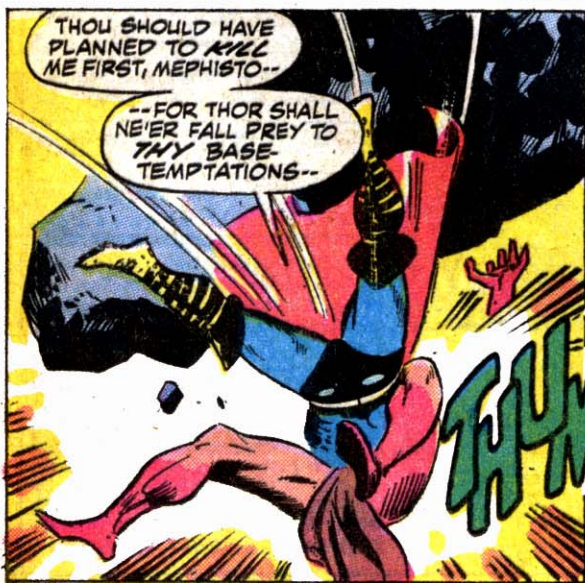


HOW  
**HOPELESSLY**  
**BRIGHT**  
OF YOU,  
ASGARDIAN.

YES, BEFORE I  
CAN TRULY **INVADE**  
THE WORLD WITHOUT,  
I NEED ONE **FINAL**  
VICTORY--

--THE  
CORRUPTION  
OF THE  
MOST  
**NOBLE**  
OF SOULS--

**THOR, GOD**  
OF THUNDER!



THOU SHOULD HAVE  
PLANNED TO **KILL**  
ME FIRST, **MEPHISTO--**

--FOR THOR SHALL  
NE'ER FALL PREY TO  
**THY** BASE  
TEMPTATIONS--

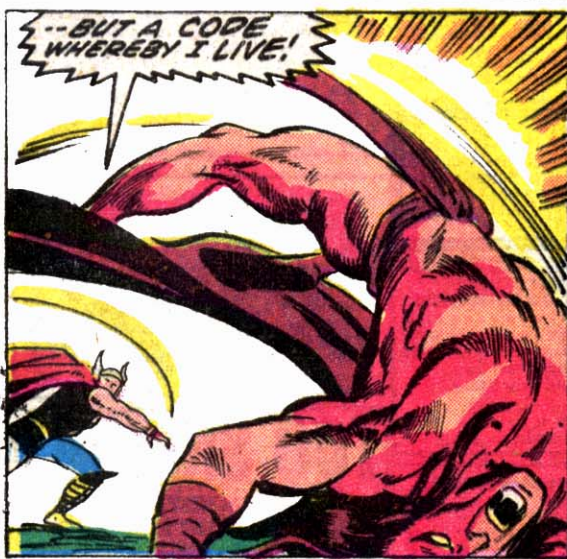
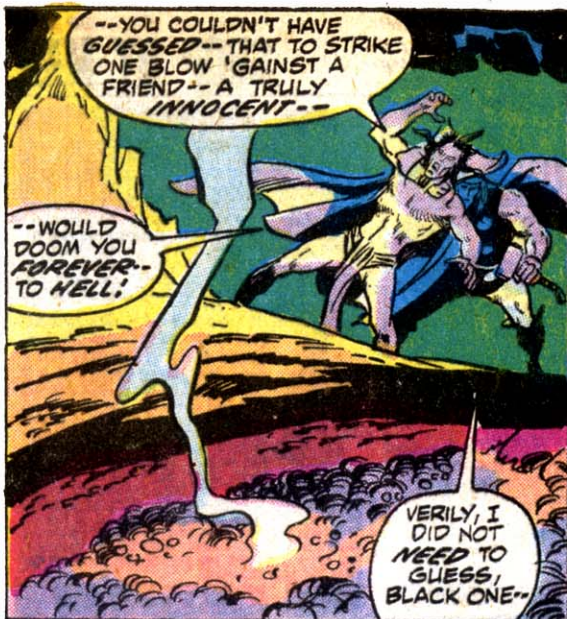
**THUMP!**



--TEMPTATIONS  
ALL THE MORE **FOUL**  
FOR THEIR  
**INVISIBILITY!**

YOU  
**COULDN'T**  
HAVE KNOWN--





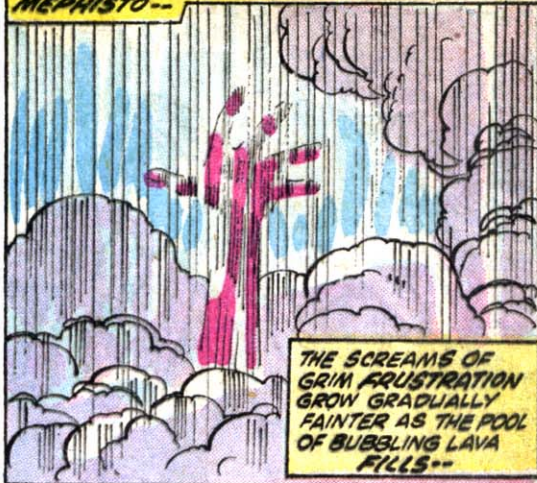




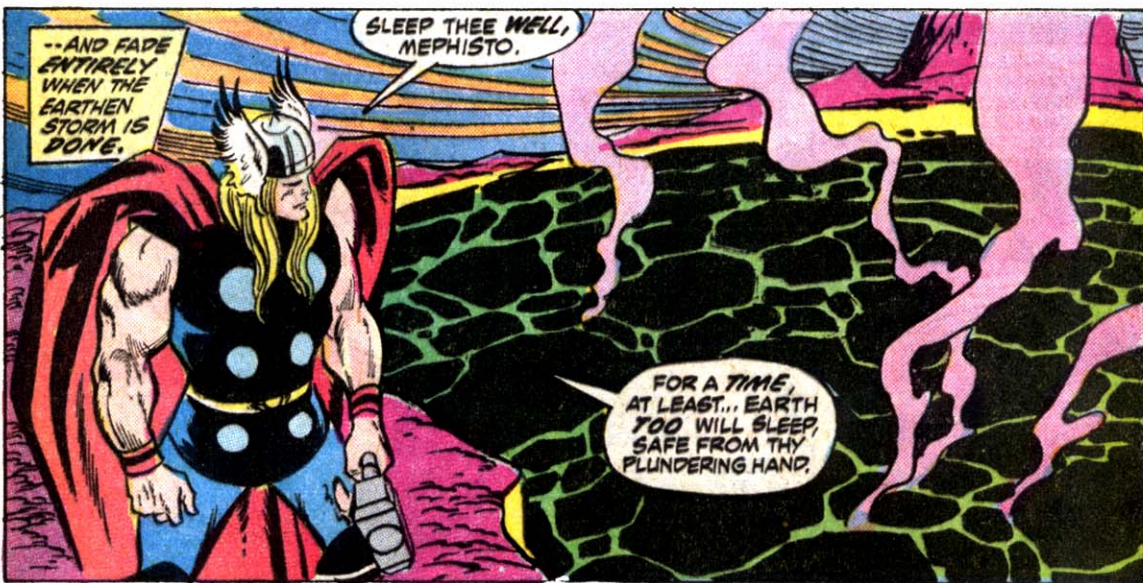
**BADDOOM!**

**NOW!**

FOR TEN ETERNAL SECONDS, THE SHOWER OF ROCK AND LAVA UNLEASHED BY THE THUNDER GOD'S HAMMER RAINS UPON THE STRUGGLING MEPHISTO--



THE SCREAMS OF GRIM FRUSTRATION GROW GRADUALLY FAINTER AS THE POOL OF BUBBLING LAVA FILLS--



--AND FADE ENTIRELY WHEN THE EARTHEN STORM IS DONE.

SLEEP THEE WELL, MEPHISTO.

FOR A TIME, AT LEAST... EARTH TOO WILL SLEEP, SAFE FROM THY PLUNDERING HAND.



...THOUGH FOR MYSELF, I FEAR... THERE WILL BE MANY RESTLESS NIGHTS...

...FOR FROM THIS DAY, THOR WILL EVER WALK... ALONE.



HILDEGARDE SAYS THEE MAY, MILORD!

WHATE'ER SPELL THE DEMON DID USE ON US HAS PASSED WITH HIS PASSING...

...AND IN TRUTH, WE ALL ARE FREE...

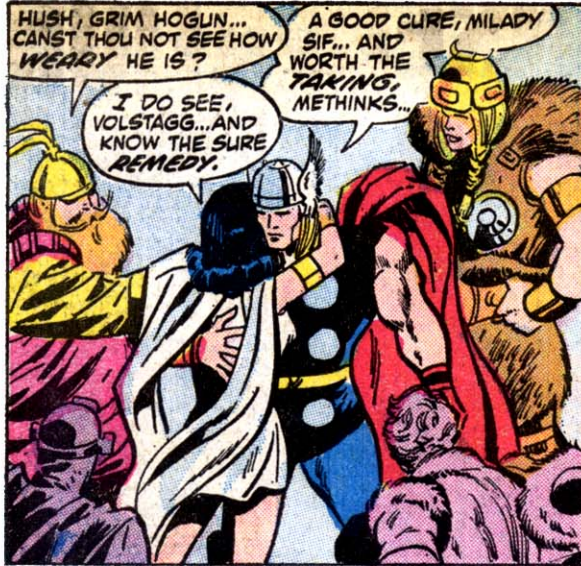
...AS FREE AS A MAN OR GOD MAY BE... WITH MEMORIES SUCH AS THESE.



HUSH, GRIM HOGUN...  
CANST THOU NOT SEE HOW  
WEARY HE IS?

A GOOD CURE, MILADY  
SIF... AND  
WORTH THE  
TAKING,  
METHINKS...

I DO SEE,  
VOLSTAGG...AND  
KNOW THE SURE  
REMEDY.

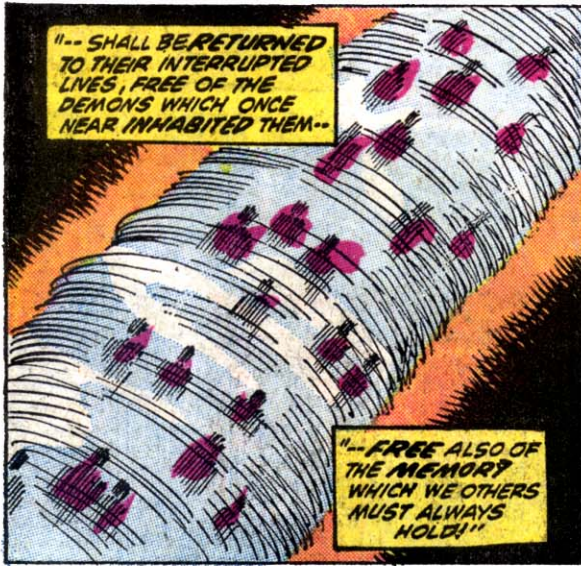


...BUT FIRST,  
THERE ARE  
THINGS I  
MUST NEEDS  
ATTEND TO.

THESE MEN MEPHISTO  
DID SPIRIT FROM THEIR  
NATURAL TIME AND  
PLACE--



"-- SHALL BE RETURNED  
TO THEIR INTERRUPTED  
LIVES, FREE OF THE  
DEMONS WHICH ONCE  
NEAR INHABITED THEM--



"-- FREE ALSO OF  
THE MEMORY  
WHICH WE OTHERS  
MUST ALWAYS  
HOLD!"

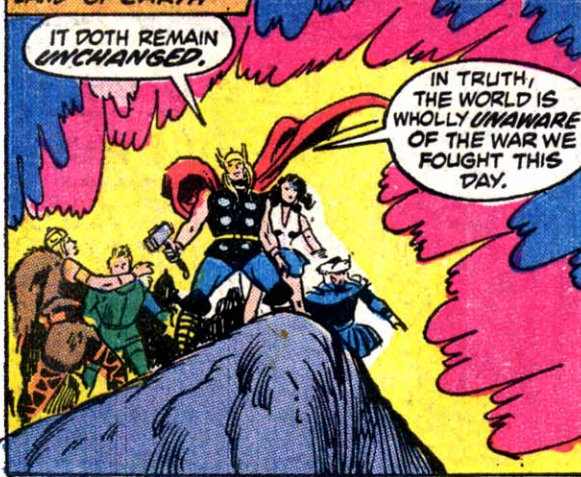
TWICE THE MYSTIC MJOLNIR SPINS--TWICE, A  
VORTEX PIERCES THE FABRIC OF ENDLESS  
SPACE--



--AND, WHEN THE SECOND SPINNING IS FINISHED,  
A BATTLE-WEARY COMPLEMENT OF ASGARDIAN  
WARRIORS STANDS ONCE MORE ON THE FIRM  
LAND OF EARTH--

IT DOTH REMAIN  
UNCHANGED.

IN TRUTH,  
THE WORLD IS  
WHOLLY UNAWARE  
OF THE WAR WE  
FOUGHT THIS  
DAY.

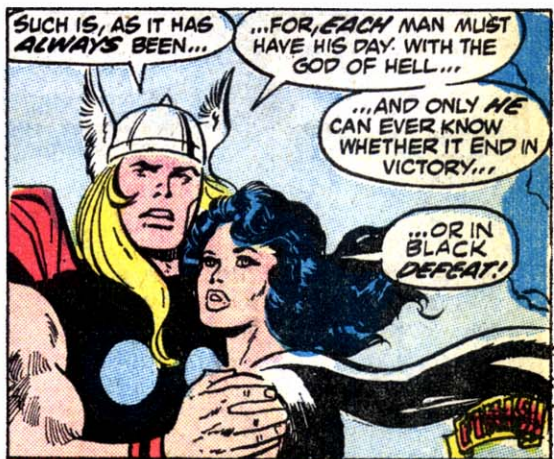


SUCH IS, AS IT HAS  
ALWAYS BEEN...

...FOR EACH MAN MUST  
HAVE HIS DAY. WITH THE  
GOD OF HELL...

...AND ONLY WE  
CAN EVER KNOW  
WHETHER IT END IN  
VICTORY...

...OR IN  
BLACK  
DEFEAT!



NEXT ISSUE: THE ABSORBING MAN!