

THOR

MARVEL COMICS GROUP™



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THE
MIGHTY

THOR

THOU HAST DARED
TO CHALLENGE
HERCULES..

--AND SO,
MUST
DIE!



Stan Lee
PRESENTS: **THE MIGHTY THOR!** TM

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HERCULES ENRAGED!

FEATURING
THE MIND-
STAGGERING
GRANDEUR OF
OLYMPUS!

WHAT'S THIS? THE
GOD OF THUNDER
BATTLING THE
OUTLAND GUARDS
OF OLYMPUS?
FEAR NOT, FAITHFUL
ONE! ALL WILL BE
EXPLAINED --
THOUGH PERHAPS
NOT IMMEDIATELY..!

FALL, YE
MINIONS OF
TREACHEROUS
ZEUS!

THOU DOST
DARE STRIKE
THOR -- SON OF
ODIN -- GOD OF
THUNDER?

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CALL THYSELF WHAT
THOU *WILT*, BLONDHAIR:
ABOVE *ALL*, THOU ART
AN *INTRUDER* IN THE
LAND OF *OLYMPUS*--

--AND FOR
THAT CRIME,
THOU MUST
PAY THE
PENALTY:

THOU
MUST
DIE!

BROTHERS,
AWAKE--THE
RIDERS COME!

THEY'LL MAKE
THIS BATTLE
SHORT--YEA,
SWIFT!

THE
BLONDHAIR
WILL DIE A
DEATH MOST
BLOODY!

NEVER! 'TIS NOT FOR
THEE TO PRONOUNCE
THAT *FINAL JUDGEMENT*--

--NOR
'TIS IT
TRULY FOR
THOR--

WHAM!

--THOUGH VERILY, IT FITS *HIIM*
BETTER THAN IT DOES *THEE*!

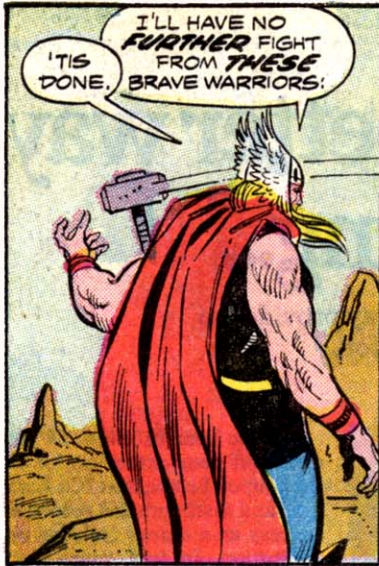
EEEEEEEEE

AH, 'TWOULD
APPEAR THOU
DOST LEARN
TOO *SLOWLY*.

AGAIN I SAY,
MY QUARREL
IS NOT WITH
THEE--

--BUT WITH
THE GOD
CALLED
HERCULES!





'TIS DONE.

I'LL HAVE NO FURTHER FIGHT FROM **THESE** BRAVE WARRIORS!



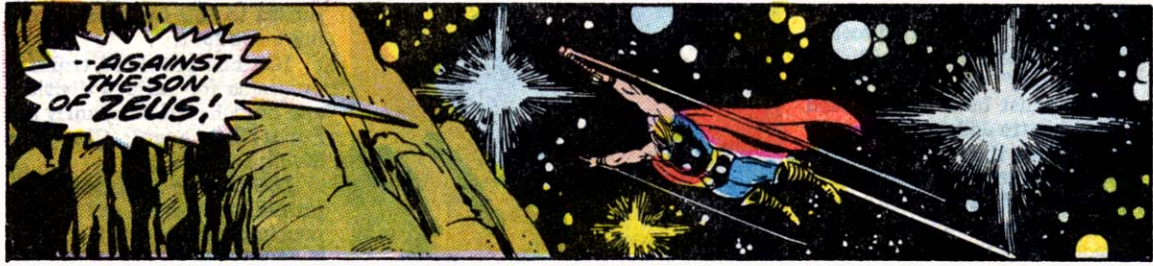
NAY, **THEY** SHALL SLEEP WHILE **OTHERS** TAKE UP BATTLE'S **BANNER--**

--OTHERS I SHALL FIND **ABOVE**, ON THE DISTANT PEAK WHERE TOWERS **OLYMPUS**.



IN TRUTH, 'TIS NOT A BATTLE I **ENJOY**.

'TIS MERELY A WAR WHICH MUST BE **WON--**



--AGAINST THE SON OF **ZEUS**!



AND WHAT OF THE WHITE-MANED LORD OF OLYMPUS? WHAT OF **ZEUS**, WHOSE POWER AND MAJESTY IS EQUALED ONLY BY **ODIN--** WHO STANDS, EVEN NOW, WATCHING THE APPROACHING THOR WITH GROWING REGAL WRATH--

HAS THE WORLD GONE **MAD?**

DO MY ANCIENT EYES **BETRAY** ME-- OR DO I TRULY SEE WHAT I **SEE?**

'TWOULD APPEAR **SO**, LORD **ZEUS**,...



...FOR **ARES** SEES IT **ALSO!**

'TIS THE ASGARDIAN WHELP CALLED **THOR**... AND 'T WAS OUR OWN **GUARDS** HE STRUCK, OUR TRUE **WARRIORS** HE CRUELLY BESTED.

MILORD, 'TIS AS I'VE ALWAYS **MAINTAINED**: THE ASGARDIANS ARE TREACHEROUS **CURS--** TO BE DESTROYED, 'ERE THEY DESTROY **US!**

THY WAR-LIKE TONGUE IS **QUICK**, **ARES**,...

...BUT METHINKS THOU MAY SPEAK THE **TRUTH!**



WHAT HO, FATHER--HAVE THY SENSES LEFT THEE?

SURELY THOU MUST **JEST**. THE GOD OF WAR DOETH NOT KNOW THE MEANING OF THE WORD **TRUTH**.

ONCE HE DID NEAR **BETRAY** US*--

--AND ONLY THE STRENGTH OF **HERCULES** SAVED OLYMPUS FROM **DOOM**!

*AVENGERS #78-100...RI



MINE IS NOT THE **ONLY** QUICK TONGUE, ZEUS... THE TONGUE OF THY SON IS **EQUALLY** BITTER.

HERCULES **FORGETS**-- I HAVE DONE PENANCE FOR MY PAST SINS, AND STAND IN FAVOR ONCE **MORE** WITH HIS FATHER'S COURT.

A FACT HE HAS **NEVER** APPROVED.

QUITE **TRUE**, WAR-GOD.

A SNAKE MAY SHED ITS **SKIN**-- BUT ITS **FANGS** REMAIN.



ENOUGH. THERE IS A MATTER FAR MORE **GRAVE** FOR THEE TO ATTEND, HERCULES, THAN THE QUESTION OF ARES' **LOYALTY**.

LOOK THEE **BEYOND**... AND TELL ME WHAT THOU DOST **SEE**.

BY MY **SOUL**... 'TIS **THOR**!

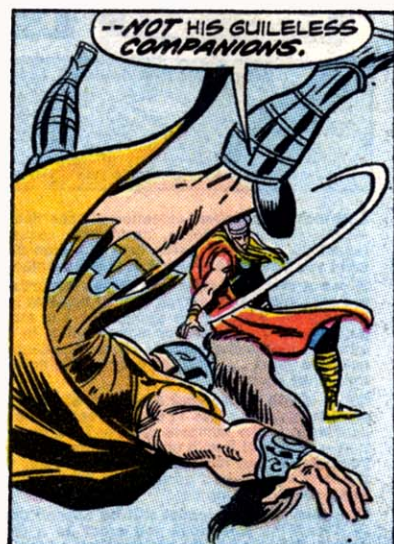
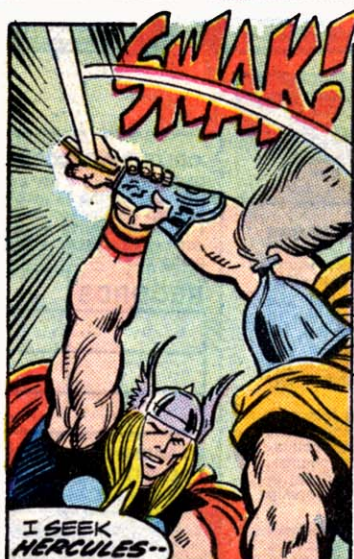
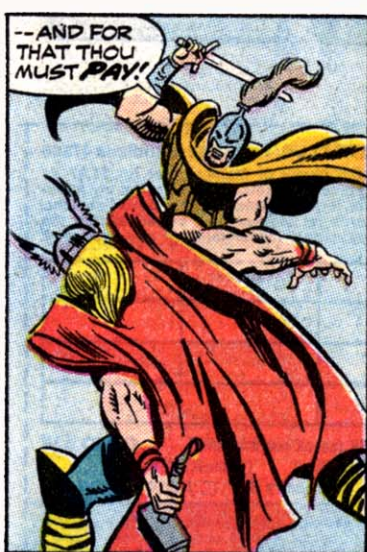
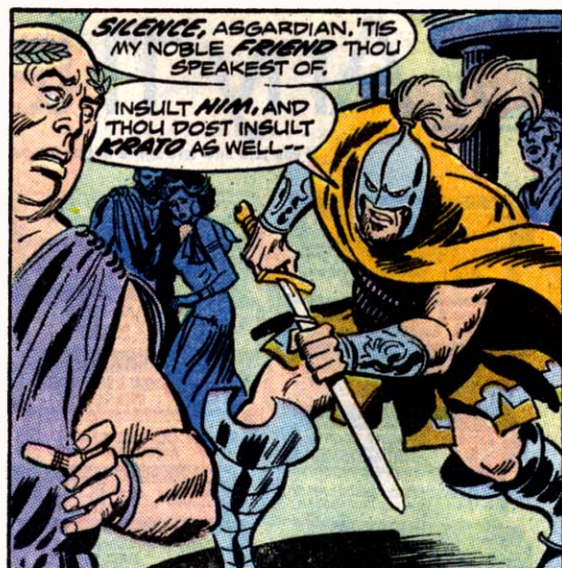
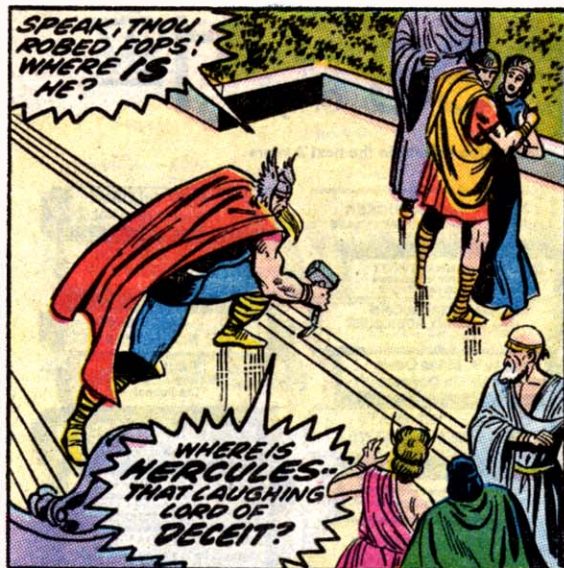
WHAT BRINGS HIM **HERE**, I WONDER?



"WHAT **INDEED**?" NUTTERS ZEUS...

"UPON THE ANSWER TO **THIS** WILL REST OUR CHOICE OF **ACTION**... WHETHER TO **AID**...

"...OR **ULTIMATELY CRUSH**... THE **ASGARDIAN LORD OF THUNDER**!"



--FOR DOOM IS UPON THEE!

WHAM!

WELL, GOLDEN ONE? WILT THOU SIT THERE ALL DAY?

HAS THY STOMACH FOR BATTLE *FLED* THEE-- NOW THAT THOU DOST FACE THE *STRONGEST* GOD OF ALL?

THY EGO IS EXCEEDED ONLY BY THY *FAITHLESSNESS*, HERCULES!

'TIS TIME *BOTH* WERE GIVEN THEIR *DUE*!

THEN *DO SO*, ASGARDIAN-- IF THOU *CANST*!

AND I IN TURN SHALL AIM TO DEFEAT *THEE*--

--AS THOU DIDST DEFEAT THE BRAVE *KRATO*!

HAVE AT *THEE*, TRAITOR--

CRASH!

--FOR ODIN, FOR KRISTA-- FOR *ASGARD*!

OKAY, RELAX. IT'S TIME WE FILLED YOU IN ON WHAT'S *HAPPENED* BETWEEN LAST ISSUE AND THIS, SO IF YOU'LL KINDLY TURN TO THE 3RD PAGE FOLLOWING...

...WE'LL DISSOLVE INTO A
SOMEWHAT COMPRESSED
FLASHBACK.

LOOK BACK IN
TIME TO AN HOUR
NOT LONG PAST,
WHEN THOR AND
HIS COMPANIONS,
FRESH FROM
THEIR TRIUMPH
OVER THE
BLACK STARS--*

* LAST
ISSUE. --RT.

--RETURNED TO THE FLEET OF THE
SPACE-FARING COLONIZERS,
THERE TO EXPLAIN THEIR SUCCESS--
AND BID THEIR GOODBYES.

MY FRIENDS, WE
OWE YOU MORE
THAN WE CAN
EVER REPAY.

WE HAVE
REPAIRED
YOUR SPACE-
JAMMER*--

--BUT EVEN
SO, OUR DEBT
REMAINS
OVER-
WHELMING!

* SHATTERED IN
THOR #219. --RT.

THAT GOES FOR ME
TOO, LAD. IT'S BEEN
A MERRY TIME I'VE
HAD WITH YE--BUT
I THINK I'LL CALL
AN END TO IT
NOW.

TANA
NILE AND
MESELF
HAVE
BECOME--
GOOD
FRIENDS. I
THINK I'LL STAY
WITH HER,
LAD.

AND MAY THE
FORTUNE OF
ODIN STAY WITH
THEE, SILAS
GRANT.

THOU WERT
EVER A GOOD
FRIEND AND
TRUE.

AND SO THEY LEFT, TURNING
THEIR STARJAMMER TO
ASSGARD:

AND BEHIND
THEM, THE
COLONIZERS
WERE SUBTLY
CHANGED--

--MORE TOLERANT, MORE
UNDERSTANDING--

--BETTER FOR THE
NIGHTMARE THEY
HAVE SUFFERED.

NO!

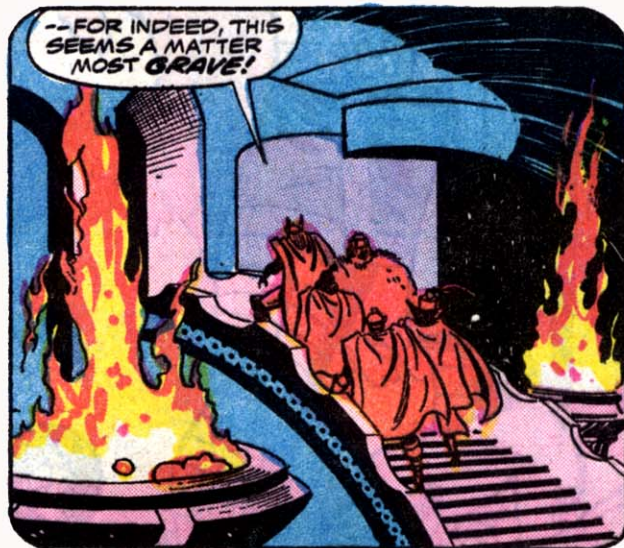
AHEAD
OF US,
BRAVE
FRIENDS--
ASSGARD!

BUT, INSTEAD OF THE WELCOMING THRONGS THEY
EXPECTED, THE RETURNING WARRIORS WERE
GREETED BY--

HILDEGARDE!
THOU DOST SEEM
GREATLY DISTURBED,
FAIR FRIEND!
WHAT--?

'TIS
KRISTA
MY
SISTER--

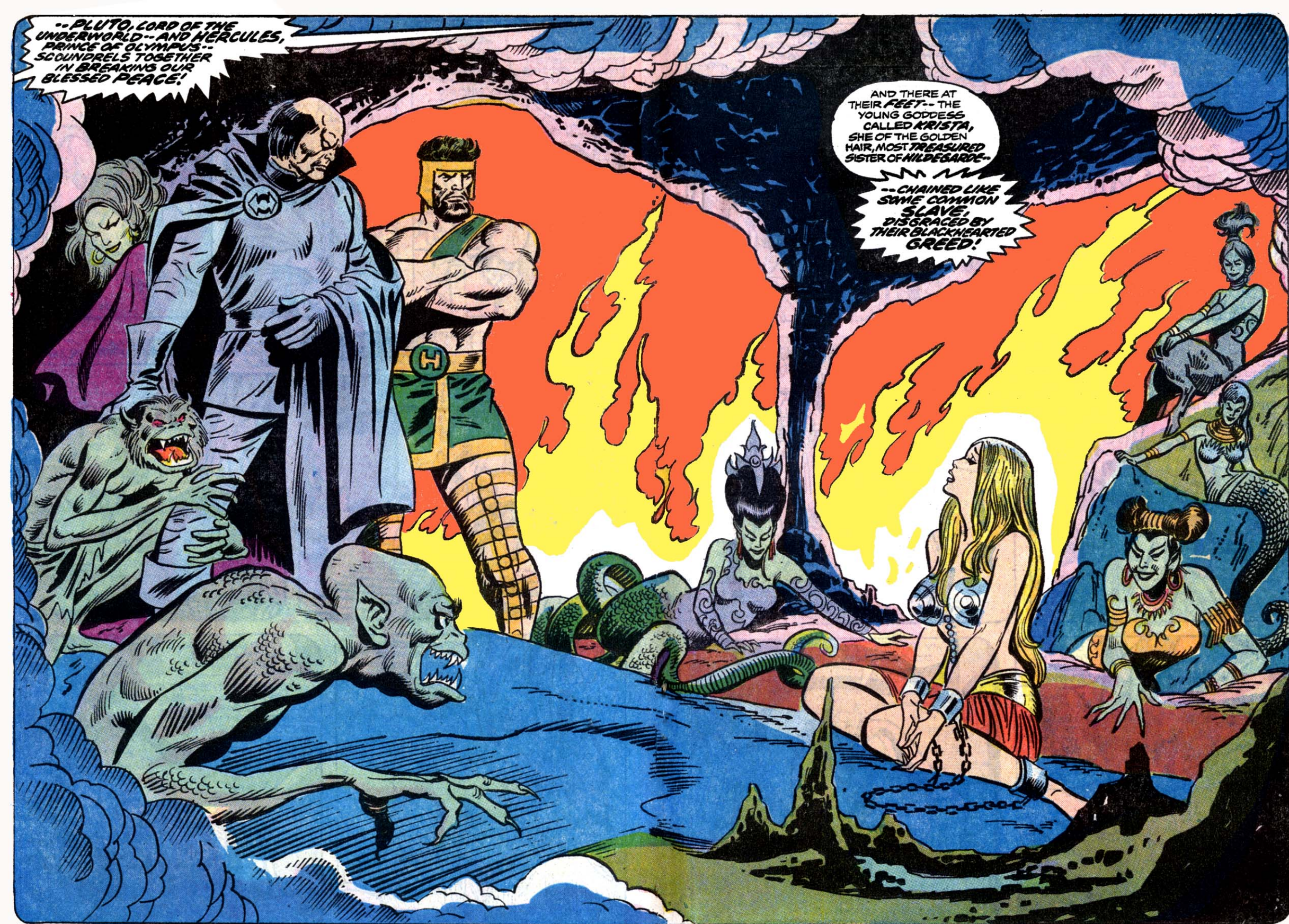
MILADY,
THEY HAVE
MADE HER A
SLAVE!



-- PLUTO, LORD OF THE UNDERWORLD-- AND HERCULES, PRINCE OF OLYMPUS-- SCOUNDRELS TOGETHER IN BREAKING OUR BLESSED PEACE!

AND THERE AT THEIR FEET-- THE YOUNG GODDESS CALLED KRISTA, SHE OF THE GOLDEN HAIR, MOST TREASURED SISTER OF HILDEGARDE--

-- CHAINED LIKE SOME COMMON SLAVE, DISGRACED BY THEIR BLACKHEARTED GREED!



MILORD... HOW DID THIS HAPPEN?

'TWERE SOME GEM INVOLVED, MY SON... A CHARMSTONE THE LASS DISCOVERED, WHICH SPIRITED HER AWAY*...

...A CHARM PLANTED BY PLUTO, NO DOUBT...

*THOR #29.--RT.

...DESIGNED TO ENTRAP A MAIDEN OF ASGARD AS NAIVE AS SHE.

BY HEIMDAL'S EYES--THIS TREACHERY WILL NOT GO UNAVENGED!

MILORD, I SAY THEE WAY--

HERCULES IS LIKE A BROTHER TO THEE-- THOU MUST NOT TURN SO QUICKLY AGAINST HIM!

MILADY, THE REASON IS PLAIN.

'TIS BETRAYAL MOST FUL!

MAYBE THERE IS SOME EXPLANATION-- SOME AS YET UNKNOWN REASON FOR THIS DEED--

SO THEN, MY SON... WHAT IS THY DECISION?

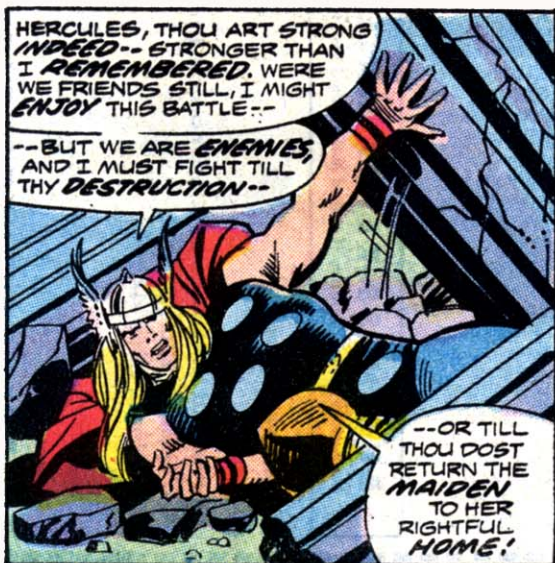
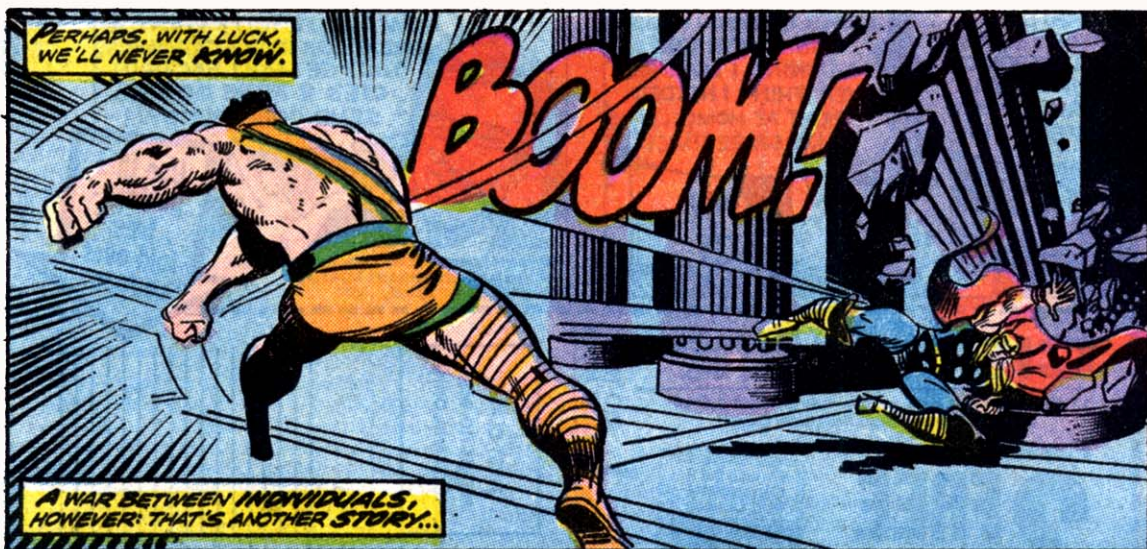
BY THY LEAVE, MILORD... I WOULD TRAVEL TO OLYMPUS, THERE TO DEFEND OUR HONOR...

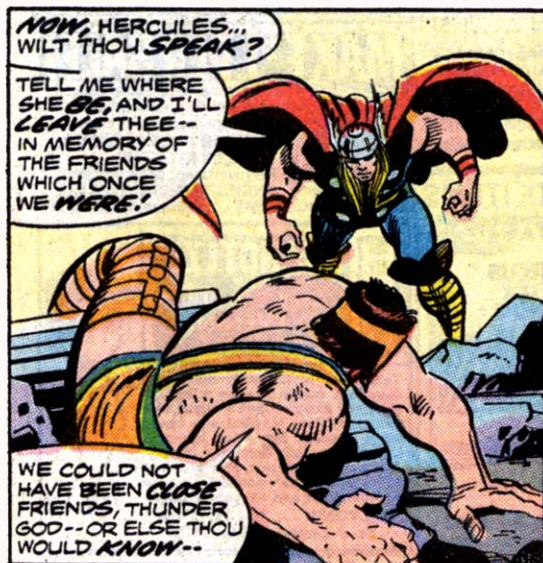
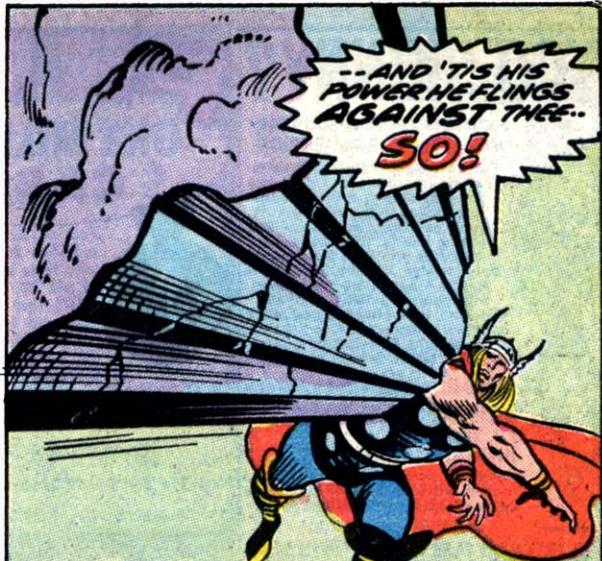
...THERE TO ARIGHT THIS MOST VICIOUS WRONG!

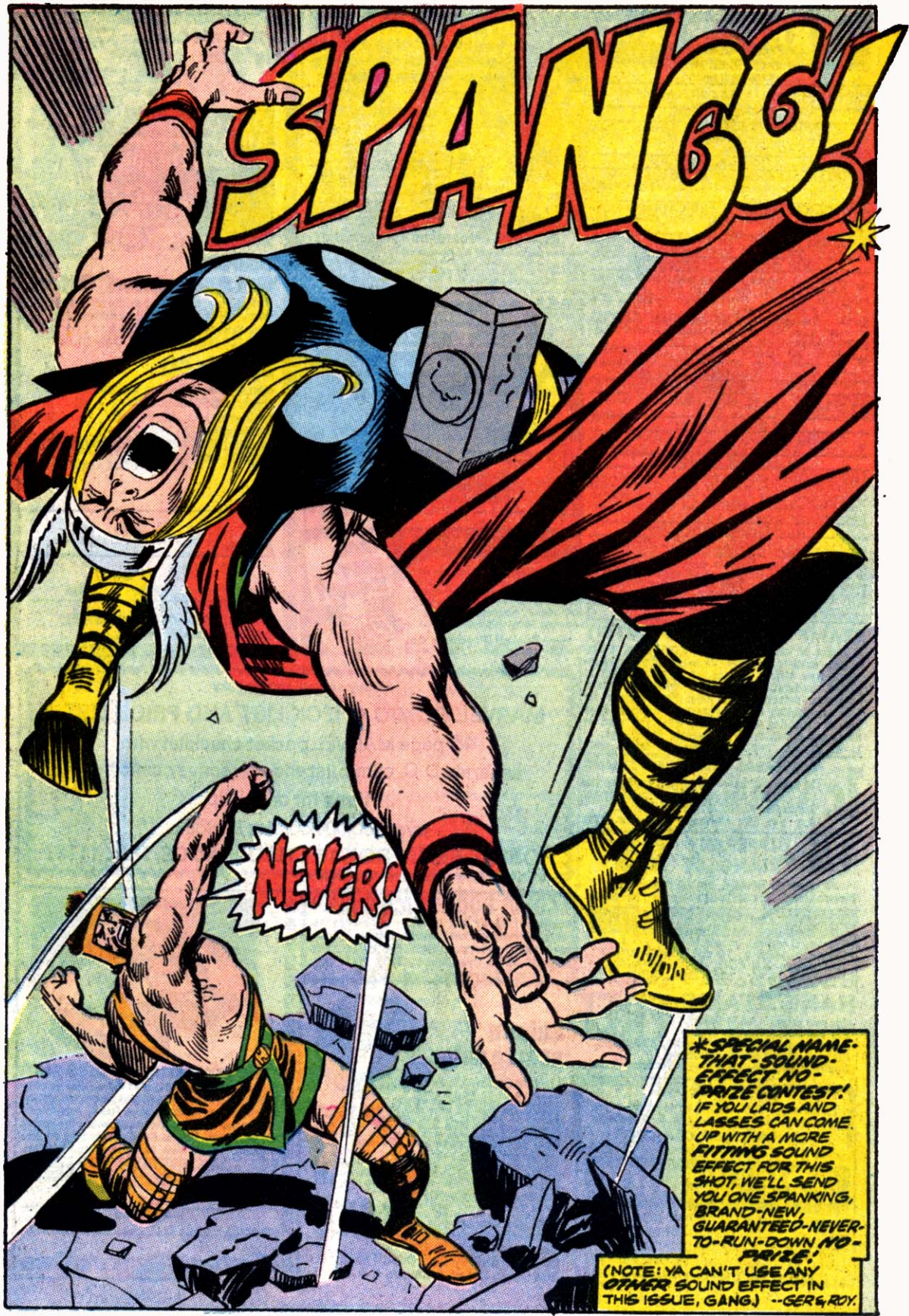
SO BE IT, THOR, THE QUEST IS THINE.

MAYEST THOU DELIVER THYSELF WITH THE DIGNITY DESERVING OF A GOD.

MY FATHER... I CAN DO NO MORE.







SPANGG!

NEVER!

***SPECIAL NAME-THAT-SOUND-EFFECT NO-PRIZE CONTEST!**
IF YOU LADS AND LASSES CAN COME UP WITH A MORE FITTING SOUND EFFECT FOR THIS SHOT, WE'LL SEND YOU ONE SPANKING, BRAND-NEW, GUARANTEED-NEVER-TO-RUN-DOWN NO-PRIZE!

(NOTE: YA CAN'T USE ANY OTHER SOUND EFFECT IN THIS ISSUE, GANG.) --GERG ROY.



MEANWHILE, AS THE BATTLE RAGES IN THE PALACE GARDEN, CLAIMING THE FULL ATTENTION OF THE GREEK GOD ZEUS, THE GOD OF WAR CALLED **ARES** MAKES AN UNOBSERVED DEPARTURE.



THESE HALLS ARE DARK, AIRY FROM THE WIND WHICH WHIPS THIS SOLITARY MOUNT...

...YET ARES MOVES THROUGH THEM WITH ASSURANCE, AS THOUGH FAMILIAR WITH THIS LITTLE-USED PATH...



...WHICH INDEED HE IS... MOST FAMILIAR.

SNATOS... LITTLE FOOL! WHAT WORD DOST THOU BRING?

IS HE READY?



Aye, milord Ares... and waiting for thy signal.

ALL THE HORDES OF HADES HAVE BEEN SUMMONED... THE UNDERWORLD AWAITS THY CALL!



TELL THY MASTER THE MOMENT DRAWS NEAR.

SOON, THE WAR TO END ALL WARS WILL BEGIN--



--AND WHEN 'TIS DONE, ONLY WE WILL HAVE WON.

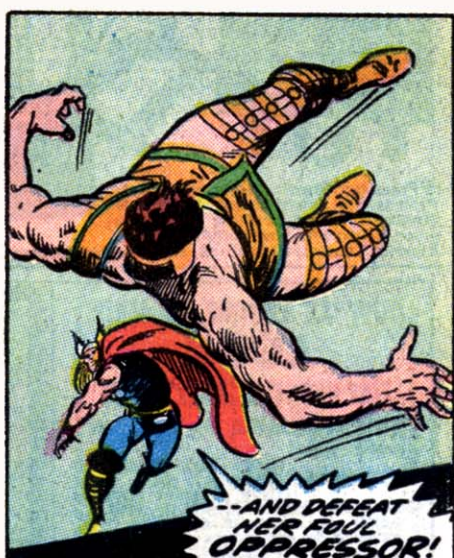
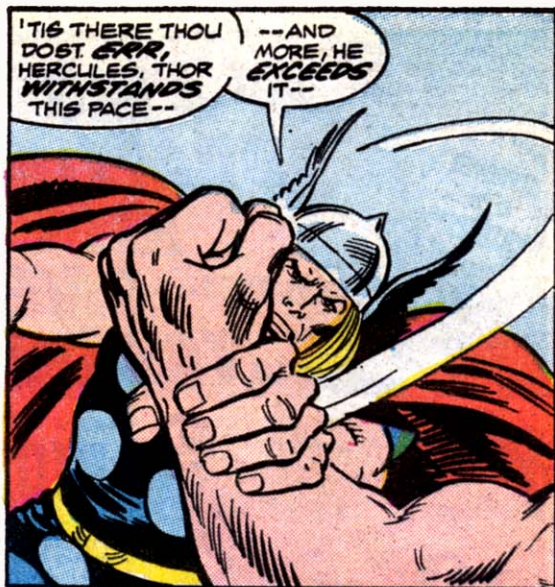


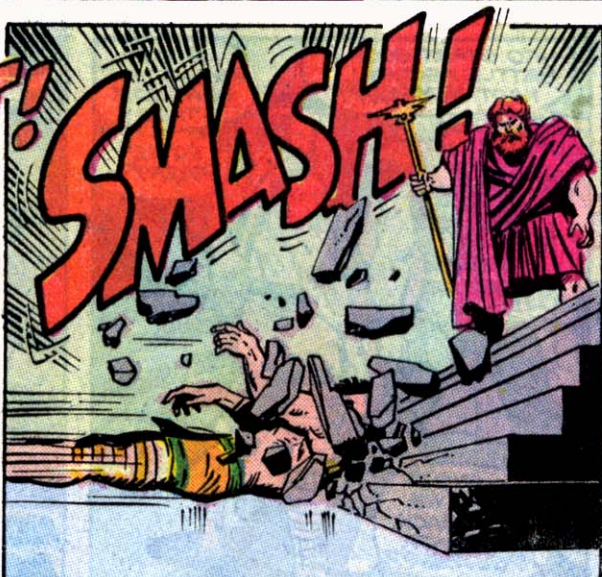
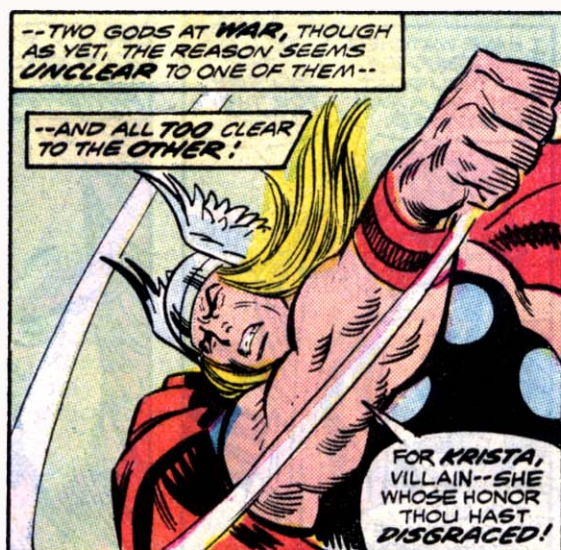
AH, THE SOUND OF BATTLE GROWS MORE STRIDENT. TRULY, 'TIS A JOYOUS SOUND.

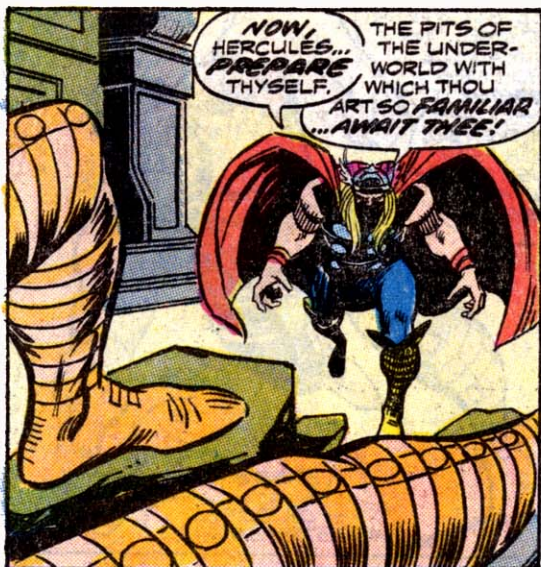
'T'WILL BE MORE JOYOUS TO HEAR THE DEATH RATTLE OF HERCULES-- AND HEAR IT I SHALL--

--FOR 'T'WILL BE BY MY HAND HE DIES--

--THOUGH ALL-- ALL-- WILL BLAME THOR!







NOW, HERCULES...
PREPARE
THYSELF.

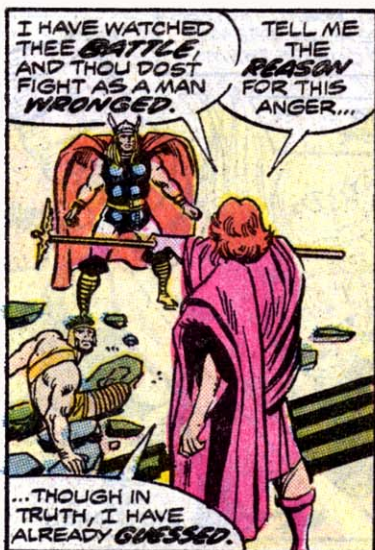
THE PITS OF
THE UNDER-
WORLD WITH
WHICH THOU
ART SO FAMILIAR
...AWAIT THEE!



HOLD!

ASGARDIAN, 'TWOULD
APPEAR THOU HAST MADE
A GRAVE MISTAKE.

HALT... BEFORE
THOU DOST MAKE
ANOTHER!



I HAVE WATCHED
THEE **BATTLE**,
AND THOU DOST
FIGHT AS A MAN
WRONGED.

TELL ME
THE
REASON
FOR THIS
ANGER...

...THOUGH IN
TRUTH, I HAVE
ALREADY **GUESSED**.



**GRIMLY, THOR
EXPLAINS,
AND WHEN HE
FINISHES...**

'TIS AS I
EXPECTED,
THOR, THOU
HAST BEEN
RECEIVED...



...FOR HERCULES HAS NOT
LEFT THE PALACE FOR A
FORTNIGHT. THERE HAS
BEEN A **FESTIVAL**... A
FEAST, WINE AND
WOMEN...

...AND
MY SON
WAS MOST
PROMINENTLY
PRESENT.

THEN **WHO**
KIDNAPPED
THE MAIDEN
KRISTA?

PLUTO! 'T WAS HIS
DOING, DOUBTLESS--



--TO START SUCH A
BATTLE AS THOU
HAST **FOUGHT**!

WELL,
ASGARDIAN?
WHAT SAY
THEE?

DO WE
FIGHT--

--AND IF
SO, DO WE
FIGHT EACH
OTHER--OR
TOGETHER?



TOGETHER,
HERCULES... IF
THOU WILT
FORGIVE ME
FOR E'ER
DOUBTING
THEE.

'TIS
ALREADY
DONE.

FRIENDS WE ARE,
AND E'ER SHALL **REMAIN**
--TILL THE DISTANT
END OF TIME!

NEXT MONTH THE BATTLE FOR HELL!