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**WHAT IF...**

# THOR

WAS A THRALL OF

**SETH!**



**30TH**  
**ANNIVERSARY**  
1962 1992



THE AMAZING  
SPIDER-MAN

**TIME**  **UAKE**  
PART FOUR OF FIVE



IN CASE YOU'RE WONDERING, WE'RE STILL HERE...



...IN THE CITADEL AT THE END OF TIME, WHERE...

--ONE OF YOU IS VANISHING!\*

I AM NOT CERTAIN WHICH ONE, PRECISELY.

IT MATTERS NOT, UATU. WE HAVE NO NAMES, FOR WE TIME KEEPERS ARE A SINGLE ENTITY.

WHATEVER DIMINISHES ONE DIMINISHES ALL THREE.

\*AS SEEN LAST ISSUE - CRAIG

YET, IF ONE OF US HAS VANISHED INTO INEXISTENCE, THEN WHAT WE HAVE FEARED IS INDEED COMING TO PASS--

--AND WE TWO MAY SOON FOLLOW!

IT WAS JUST SUCH AN OCCURRENCE THAT WE HIRED THAT FOOL IMMORTUS TO PREVENT--

--BY ERASING THE LIVING "NEXUS-BEINGS" FROM VARIOUS ALTERNATE REALITIES.

AT FIRST, WE THOUGHT HE HAD ACCOMPLISHED HIS MISSION...

"...AND THAT THE LAST OF THE NEXI OF WHICH HE WAS TO DISPOSE WAS YOUR REALITY'S SCARLET WITCH

"INSTEAD, IMMORTUS MADE HER THE RECEPTACLE WE NEEDED FOR ALL THE NEXUS-POWERS HE HAD SIPHONED OFF FROM THE OBLITERATED TIMELINES.

"HIS FOOLISH CHOICE BROUGHT HIM INTO CONFLICT WITH THE AVENGERS WEST COAST-- AND WHEN THE MUTANT DRAMATICALLY THREW OFF HER NEXUS-ENERGY - \*

\*AWC #62--C

"-- WE WERE FORCED TO TURN IMMORTUS INTO THAT INDISPENSABLE REPOSITORY OF NEXUS-ENERGY, INSTEAD.

"HIS NOW-IMMOBILE FORM IS STORED IN LIMBO, FOR FUTURE USE.

"ONLY LATER DID WE DISCOVER THAT HE HAD MISSED NO LESS THAN FOUR NEXI-- IN FOUR DIFFERENT REALITIES.

"THROUGH OUR PAWVS, WE HAVE THUS FAR TRIED TO NEUTRALIZE THE INFANT FRANKLIN RICHARDS ON AN EARTH WHEREON SPIDER-MAN IS A MEMBER OF THE FANTASTIC FIVE...





"...THE FULLY-COMPUTERIZED VISION, IN A SECOND TIMELINE'S 22ND CENTURY..."

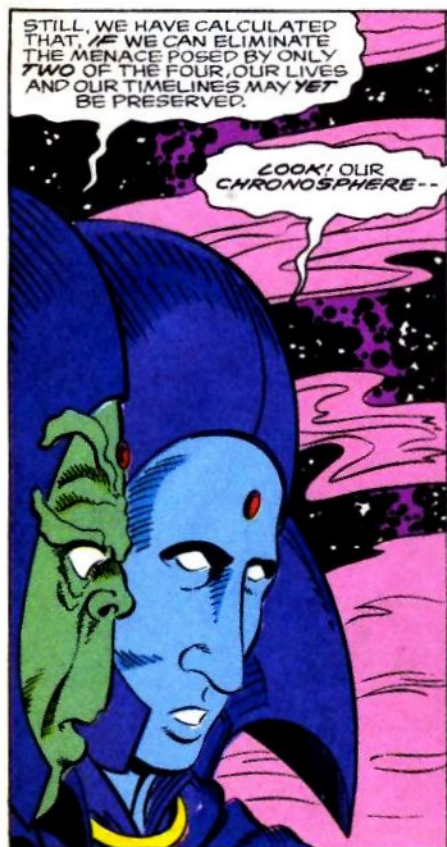


"...AND JEAN GREY OF THE MUTANT X-VAMPIRES, IN A THIRD.\*"

\*SEE OUR PAST THREE ISSUES  
-- CRAIG



"UNFORTUNATELY BECAUSE OF CIRCUMSTANCES AS YET UNDETERMINED, ONLY THE VISION OF THOSE THREE NEXI WAS ACTUALLY ERADICATED AS A DANGER TO OUR OWN CONTINUED EXISTENCE."

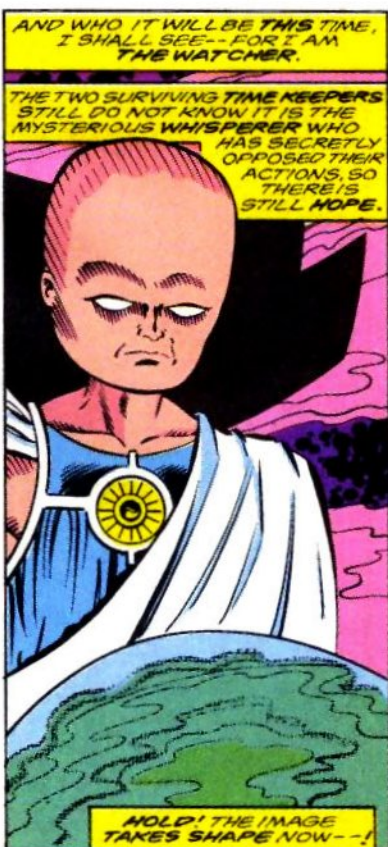


STILL, WE HAVE CALCULATED THAT, IF WE CAN ELIMINATE THE MENACE POSED BY ONLY TWO OF THE FOUR, OUR LIVES AND OUR TIMELINES MAY YET BE PRESERVED.

LOOK! OUR CHRONOSPHERE--



--IT HAS LOCATED THE FOURTH AND FINAL NEXUS THREAT!



AND WHO IT WILL BE THIS TIME, I SHALL SEE--FOR I AM THE WATCHER.

THE TWO SURVIVING TIME KEEPERS STILL DO NOT KNOW IT IS THE MYSTERIOUS WHISPERER WHO HAS SECRETLY OPPOSED THEIR ACTIONS, SO THERE IS STILL HOPE.

HOLD! THE IMAGE TAKES SHAPE NOW--!



SO! THE QUESTION ON  
WHICH THE FATE  
OF THE MULTIVERSE MAY  
HINGE IS--

# WHAT IF **THOR** HAD BECOME A **THRALL** OF **SETH**?

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**TIMEQUAKE**  
PART IV OF 5



AT LAST I UNDERSTAND!

NOT LONG AGO, \*SETH, THE EGYPTIAN GOD OF DEATH, LED AN ATTACK UPON ASGARD, HOME OF THE NORSE GODS.

\*SEE THOR #396-400.  
-- CRAIG



IN THE REALITY OVER WHICH I WATCH, SETH-- IN THE FORM OF A HUGE SERPENT-- LOST, DEFEATED BY THE POWER OF ALL-FATHER ODIN.

YET IN THE ASGARD I NOW BEHOLD, THE SETH-SERPENT HAS THOR'S SIRE IN ITS IMPLACABLE COILS--

--AND IS ONLY MOMENTS FROM TOTAL VICTORY, AND THE DEATH OF ODIN!

IS ODIN, THEN, THE CRUCIAL NEXUS--BEING OF THAT REALITY?

YES! IF HE PERISHES-- AND REMEMBER, THE ASGARDIANS ARE NOT IMMORTAL, DESPITE THEIR PRETENSES-- OUR CAUSE PREVAILS!

JUDGE US NOT TOO HARSHLY, WATCHER. FOR, WE HAVE NOT DONE WHAT WE HAVE DONE OUT OF HATRED FOR THE EARTHS AND THE NEXT WE HAVE ERASED--



--BUT ONLY IN ORDER TO PRESERVE OUR ONLY PRECIOUS TIMELINE!!!!!!\*

ANOTHER OF US HAS VANISHED-- SO THAT ONLY I REMAIN!

TRULY, TIME GROWS SHORT!

PERHAPS IT SHOULD DO SO-- FOR BEINGS WHO EXIST ONLY AT TIME'S END, AND WHO CHERISH A MULTITUDE OF UNIVERSES LESS THAN THEIR OWN SELFISH EXISTENCE.

DO YOU KNOW WHAT HAS CAUSED THIS LATEST DISAPPEARANCE, KEEPER?

LET US LOOK INTO THE CHRONOSPHERE, AND WE SHALL SEE...





I DO LOOK--

-- AND IN THE EGYPTIAN  
DIMENSION OF DEATH,  
I BEHOLD THAT WHICH  
MAKES EVEN MY OWN  
HIGH-IMMORTAL HEART  
STAND STILL!

THWAM

THOR, THE LADY  
SIF, AND THE  
WARRIORS  
THREE--  
LOCKED IN  
BATTLE WITH  
THE DEMON  
HORDES OF  
SETH!

FOR ODIN--  
AND FOR  
ASGARD!

THE NORTHBORN STALWARTS  
ARE VALIANT BEYOND  
MEASURE--

ARRRR!

FIRST WITH SPEARS TO  
WHICH EVEN AN ASGARDIAN IS  
NOT IMMUNE, FANDRAL  
THE DASHING IS SLAIN...

-- BUT COURAGE  
ALONE CANNOT  
HOPE TO PREVAIL  
AGAINST  
A MULTITUDE  
WITHOUT  
NUMBER.

... THEN HOGUN  
THE GRIM...

TRY NOT --  
TO SAVE ME--  
MY BROTHERS--

LET HOGUN  
DIE-- AS DARKLY  
AS HE-- HAS  
LIVEDDDDD

THOR, BELOVED--  
HOGUN AND FANDRAL  
HAVE FALLEN!

THEN LET  
US MOURN  
THEM WITH OUR  
WEAPONS,  
MILADY--

-- AND PLAY A DEADLY  
DIRGE UPON  
THE SKULLS OF  
ASGARD'S FOES!





AND THEN, AS  
HE DID IN  
MANY ANOTHER  
UNIVERSE--

--GROG MAKES  
HIS APPEARANCE.

STAND ASIDE,  
SCIONS OF THE  
SERPENT! THOR!  
I HAVE COME  
FOR YOU!



NO! THIS MUST  
NOT BE!

THE THUNDER  
GOD ALONE IS  
THE HOPE OF  
ASGARD--

-- THE HOPE OF ALL  
THERE IS! THUS--



--SIF  
STRIKES  
FOR  
THOR!

WITH SUCH FIRE  
AND FURY DOES  
THE WARRIOR-  
SISTER OF  
HEIMDALL ATTACK  
THE MURDEROUS  
MINION OF SETH--

-- THAT, FOR A FLEETING  
MOMENT, IT SEEMS THAT  
SHE MUST PREVAIL.



BUT IT IS NOT TO BE.

HAH! 'TIS NOT  
FOR NAUGHT  
THAT I AM  
CALLED--

--GROG THE  
GOD-  
CRUSHER!



THOR SWEARS  
SILENTLY TO  
KILL SIF'S  
SLAYER--

--AND CURSES  
HIMSELF THAT  
HE CANNOT  
HALT TO DO  
SO NOW--



BUT HIS MISSION MUST COME FIRST  
FOR HIM--EVEN AS IT DID FOR  
THE GODDESS HE LOVED.

ALL-FATHER! I  
HAVE SACRIFICED ALL  
TO COME FOR THEE!

THOU, ABOVE  
ALL, MUST  
BE SAVED--

--THAT THE  
UNIVERSE  
MAY BE  
DELIVERED!

THROOM

SIRE?

THOU DOST SPEAK  
NOT--NOR SCARCELY  
EVEN MOVE!

AND WHAT GOOD  
WOULD IT DO HIM  
TO MOVE OR SPEAK,  
THUNDERER--

--WHEN HIS VERY WILL  
BELONGS NOT TO  
HIMSELF--

--BUT TO  
THE SERPENT  
GOD!?

SETH!

AYE! LONG HAVE I SWORN, THOR,  
THAT YOU WOULD PAY THE  
ULTIMATE PRICE FOR CAUSING  
THE LOSS OF MY RIGHT HAND!

YOU AND ALL YOUR  
UPSTART ASGARDIANS,  
WHO HAVE COME TO  
GODHOOD DURING  
THE LAST BLINKING  
OF MY AGE-OLD  
EGYPTIAN EYE!

STAND BACK,  
MY SERVANTS--

--THOR IS  
MINE!

IN MANY REALITIES--INDEED,  
IN MOST, BY FAR--

--THOR  
TRIUMPHS  
OVER ALL: OVER  
SETH, AND GROG--  
AYE, EVEN OVER  
SURTUR  
THE FIRE  
DEMON.

YET, VICTORY  
EVER HANGS BY  
THE SLIMMEST THREAD--  
AND THIS TIME, AS IT  
COULD HAVE DONE IN  
A THOUSAND THOUSAND  
OTHER TIMELINES--

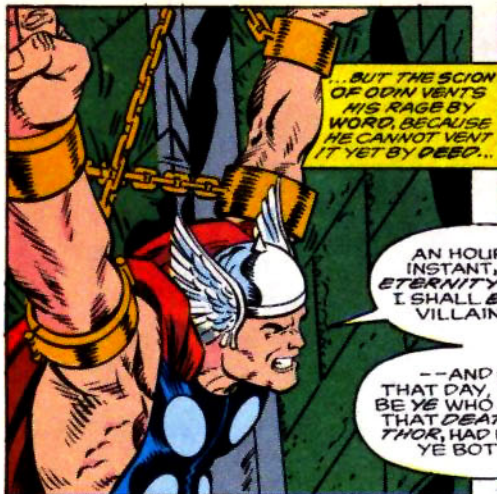
--THAT THREAD BREAKS--

--AND THE LORD OF  
THE STORM TUMBLES INTO  
THE ABYSS.





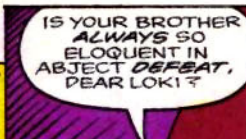




...BUT THE SCION OF ODIN VENTS HIS RAGE BY WORD, BECAUSE HE CANNOT VENT IT YET BY DEED...

AN HOUR, AN INSTANT, OR AN ETERNITY HENCE-- I SHALL ESCAPE, VILLAINS--

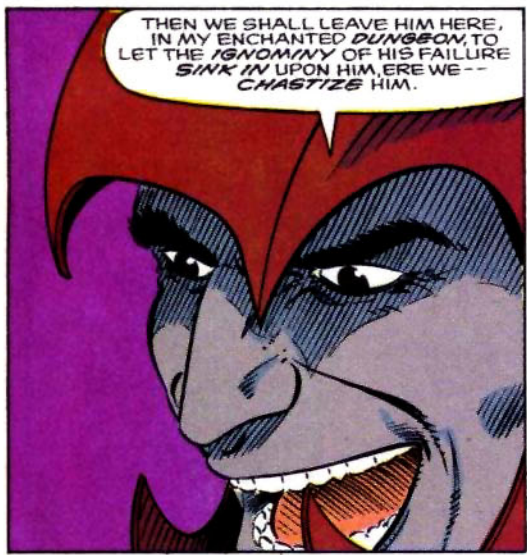
--AND ON THAT DAY, 'T WILL BE YE WHO DESIRE THAT DEATH, NOT THOR, HAD FOUND YE BOTH!



IS YOUR BROTHER ALWAYS SO ELOQUENT IN ABJECT DEFEAT, DEAR LOKI?



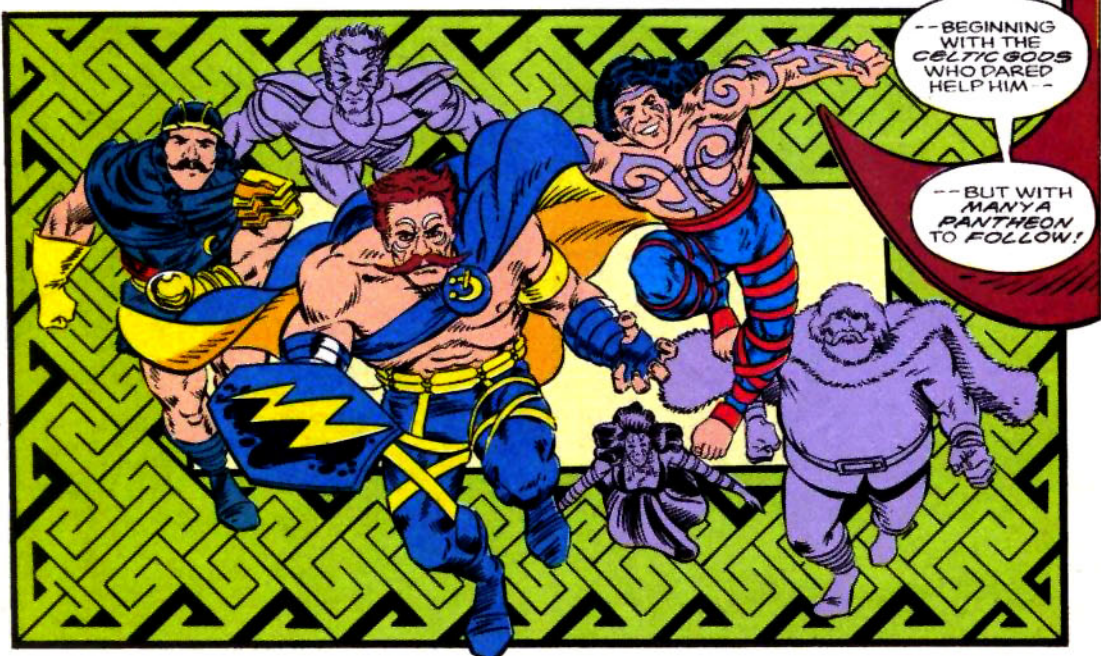
AYE, SETH-- FOR HE IS EVER LOATHE TO ADMIT THAT HE HAS LOST.



THEN WE SHALL LEAVE HIM HERE, IN MY ENCHANTED DUNGEON, TO LET THE IGNOMINY OF HIS FAILURE SINK IN UPON HIM, ERE WE-- CHASTIZE HIM.



LET HIM ROT HERE A WHILE, EVEN AS HE CONTEMPLATES THE FACT THAT HIS ERSTWHILE ALLIES ARE BEING DESTROYED ABOVE--



--BEGINNING WITH THE CELTIC GODS WHO DARED HELP HIM--

--BUT WITH MANY A PANTHEON TO FOLLOW!



NOR ARE THE VARIOUS PANTHEONS ENTIRELY UNAWARE OF THE DEATH GOD'S PLANS... FOR ALREADY, IN SOME SHADOWY NEUTRAL WORLD, THE SKY FATHERS HOLD A GRIM CONCLAVE:

IZANAGI,  
JAPANESE FATHER  
OF GODS, OF  
THE SUN AND MOON,  
OF NIGHT AND  
TEMPEST AND SEAS.

YU-HUANG,  
"THE JADE EMPEROR  
OF THE GODS,"  
MASTER OF TA-LO,  
THE HIGHEST OF  
THE 36 HEAVENS.

OSIRIS,  
SETH'S  
EGYPTIAN  
RIVAL AND  
LIEGE OF  
HELIOPOLIS.

VISHNU,  
HINDU  
LORD OF  
THE SACRED  
WISDOM.

BULUKU,  
ALL-FATHER  
OF THE VODU,  
RULER OF  
THE GREAT  
BEYOND.

ZEUS, KING  
OF THE GREEK  
OLYMPIANS.

'TIS ALMOST  
BEYOND BELIEF  
THAT A GOD FROM ONE  
PANTHEON SHOULD  
SO BRAZENLY  
DARE ATTACK  
ANOTHER!

QUETZALCOATL,  
GOD OF THE WIND,  
KNOWN ALSO AS  
THE "FEATHERED  
SERPENT."

AND--ONE  
OTHER.



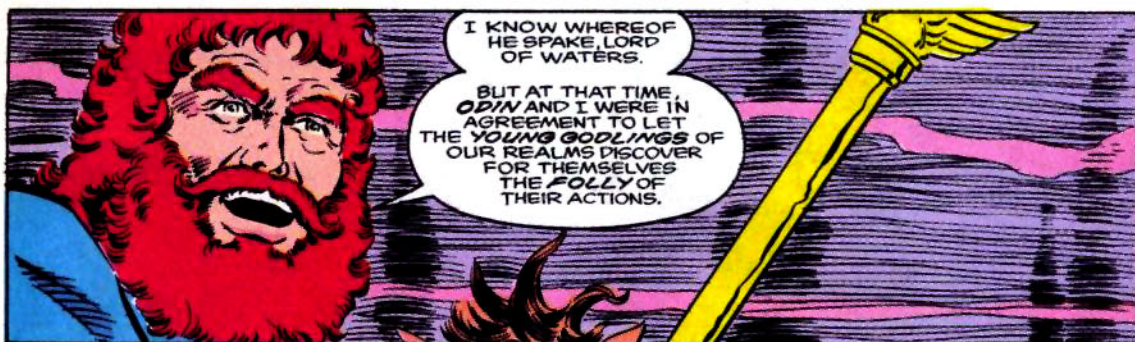


I SEEM TO RECALL  
**ANOTHER**  
SUCH OCCASION,  
LORD ZEUS--

-- ONE WHICH  
STRUCK EVEN  
CLOSER  
HOME.



HU YUANG REFERS  
TO THE HOUR WHEN  
YOUR OWN OLYMPUS  
DID ONCE CONTEND  
WITH ASGARD.



I KNOW WHEREOF  
HE SPAKE, LORD  
OF WATERS.

BUT AT THAT TIME,  
ODIN AND I WERE IN  
AGREEMENT TO LET  
THE **YOUNG GODLINGS** OF  
OUR REALMS DISCOVER  
FOR THEMSELVES  
THE **FOLLY** OF  
THEIR ACTIONS.



I, BEFORE WHOM MEN  
ONCE BOWED ON  
**TWO CONTINENTS**,  
FOUGHT ALONGSIDE  
THOR AGAINST  
THE ENTITY  
**DEMOGORGE**.

HE IS AS  
**UNDESERVING** OF  
HIS FATE AS **SETH**  
AND **LOKI** ARE  
OF VICTORY.

I SAY-- LET  
NOT THEIR  
OFFENSE GO  
UNPUNISHED!

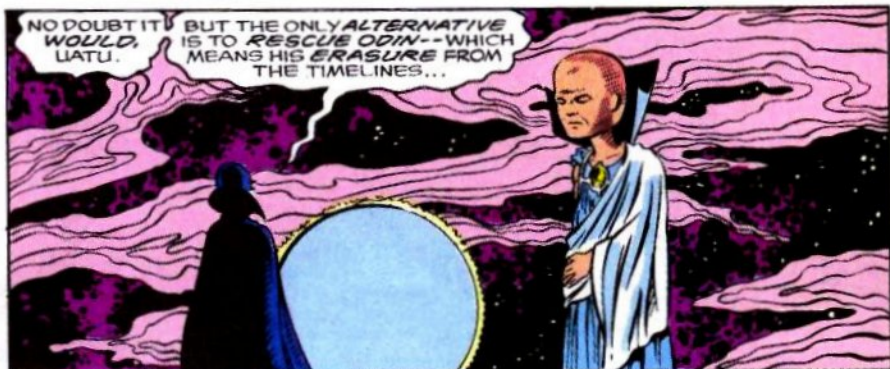


IT SHOULD NOT!  
YET, **SETH** IS ONE OF  
THE **DEATH GODS**.

WHAT OF HIS  
COUNTERPARTS  
IN **OTHER**  
PANTHEONS?

MY OWN **SABBATA**,  
FOR INSTANCE, WILL  
BE **FURIOUS** IF WE  
TAKE COMBINED ACTION  
AGAINST ONE OF  
HIS **BRETHREN**...





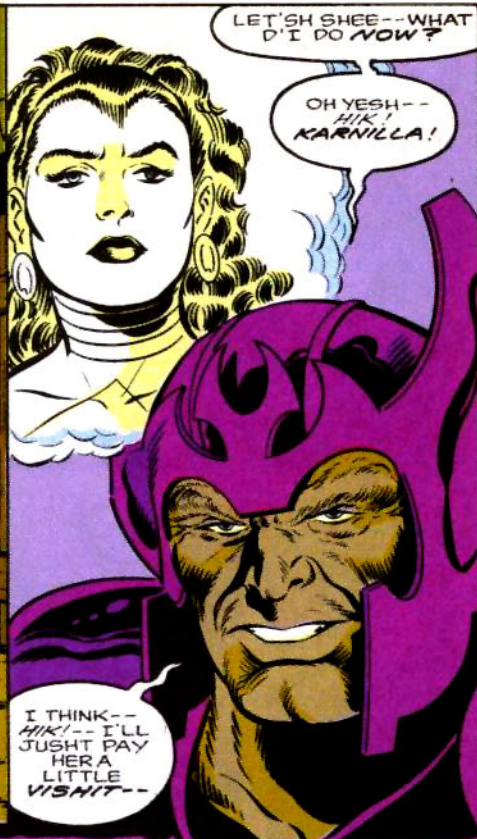


TO VICTORS, OF COURSE, BELONG THE SPOILS.

AND AMONG THE SPOILS WHICH PASS TO ASGARD'S CONQUERORS IS A PARTICULARLY MEADY TYPE OF MEAD, TO WHICH THE GOD-CRUSHER SEEMS PECULIARLY SUSCEPTIBLE.

HE IS WELL-NAMED "GROG," IT SEEMS.

ODIN'SH PALASH--HIK!  
MAKESH A VERY GOOD TAVERN--HIKK!









WHILE, NOT SO VERY FAR AWAY...

I HAVE HEARD THAT, OF LATE, YOU WERE TURNED INTO--A FROG!?

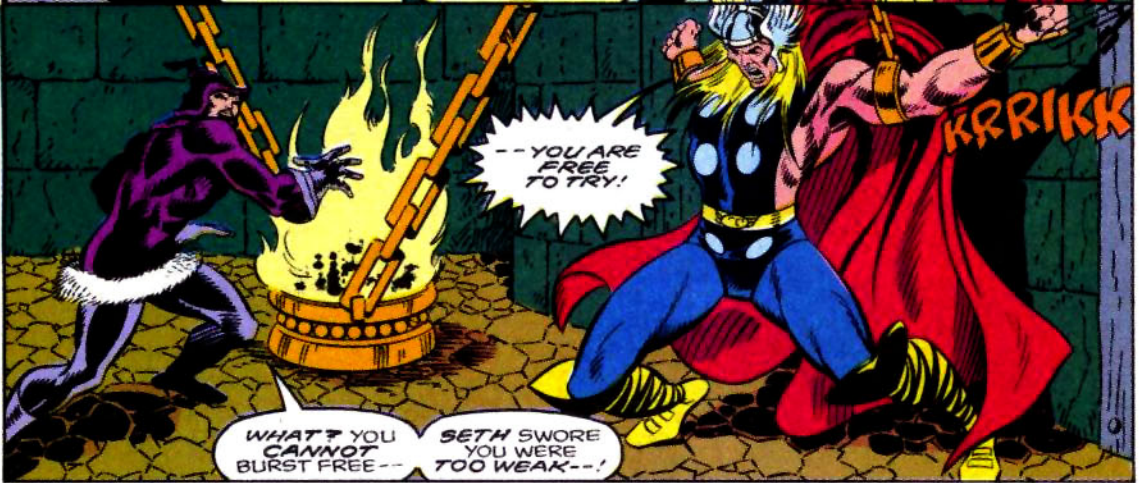
IF SO, PERHAPS YOU ARE NOW MORE VULNERABLE TO MY SORCERY, AS WELL.

'T WILL BE INTERESTING TO SEE...

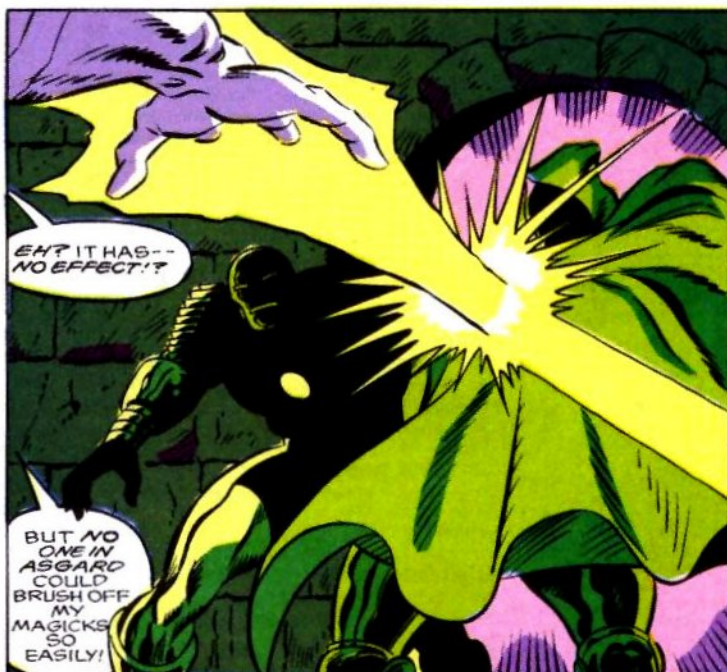
AS FOR YOUR MAGICKS--WHY, IF YOU WOULD TRY THEM ON ME--

GO BACK, IGRON, TO YOUR FOUL MASTER LOKI!

METHINKS HIS **BOOTS** MAY NEED LICKING A-NEW.













VERILY, THE SIGHT OF YOU DOES MAKE MY HEAD TO SPIN--!

IT'S NOT US, IT'S THE BEATING GROG GAVE YOU.

WE WATCHED IT--FROM ANOTHER DIMENSION.

DON'T WORRY, BLONDIE.

I'M BETTIN' YOUR MUSCLES COME BACK TO YOU--FAST--NOW THAT YOU'RE FREE.

IT BETTER 'CAUSE WE GOT OUR WORK CUT OUT FOR US!

AYE--ALREADY I BEGIN TO FEEL--STRONGER A FEW MOMENTS MORE, AND--

BUT--HOLD! WHY ARE YE OTHERS IN THE COMPANY OF A KNOWN VILLAIN SUCH AS VICTOR VON DOOM?

AND YOU--YOU SAID YOU ARE NOT IRON MAN?

I'M HIS SUCCESSOR--IN THE 22ND CENTURY OF A DIFFERENT EARTH THAN THE ONE YOU KNOW.

MAYBE ON YOURS, TOO--I'VE GOT NO WAY OF KNOWING.

I AM NOT UNFAMILIAR WITH THE CONCEPT OF PARALLEL WORLDS, AND YET--

ODIN'S BLOOD!

YOU ARE LOGAN, AYE--AND YET, YOUR FANGS--THE COLDNESS OF YOUR STARE--ARE YOU--?

SPIT IT OUT, DARLIN'. I'M A VAMPIRE.

ACTUALLY, THE LORD OF VAMPIRES, ON STILL ANOTHER OF THOSE EVER-MULTIPLYIN' EARTHS.

AT LEAST, I WAS--TILL I GOT YANKED OFF MY OWN WORLD!

AND I AM INDEED THE DOCTOR DOOM OF YET ANOTHER REALITY.

ONE SERVICED BY ITS OWN "THOR"--THOUGH, TRUTH TO TELL, OURS HAS RED HAIR...!

BUT THAT HARDLY MATTERS NOW.

EACH OF US WAS PULLED FROM HIS OWN EARTH, AT A CRUCIAL POINT IN TIME, BY A MYSTERIOUS ENTITY WE KNOW ONLY AS--THE WHISPERER.

THEN PERHAPS IT IS TIME, VON DOOM--



-- TO TELL YOU *WHY* I HAVE GATHERED TOGETHER THE THREE OF YOU -- AND NOW, A FOURTH -- *THOR!*

IT'S ABOUT TIME -- NO PUN INTENDED!

I FEAR I DO NOT COMPREHEND...

NO DOUBT YOU *SHALL*, THUNDER GOD -- WHEN THE *REST* OF US DO.

YOU FOUR ARE *NOT* THE ALL-IMPORTANT *NEX!* WHOM THE SO-CALLED *TIME KEEPERS* WISH TO DESTROY -- YET EACH OF YOU IS *PIVOTAL TO THE BATTLE TO COME.*

THUS FAR, WITH A MODICUM OF HELP FROM MYSELF, *TWO* OF THE ASSAULTED REALITIES HAVE BEEN SALVAGED -- AND ONLY *ONE* LOST.

STILL, THE *FINAL OUTCOME* IS POISED UPON THE PRECIPICE OF *UNCERTAINTY* -- AND COULD TOPPLE IN EITHER DIRECTION.

YOU WANT TO RUN THAT METAPHOR BY US IN *ENGLISH?*

I HAVE ASSEMBLED ALL OF YOU -- TO *SAVE THE ASGARD* OF THIS REALITY!

MEANWHILE, IN THE CITADEL AT THE END OF TIME...

-- AND YET, IN ANOTHER SENSE, I HAVE *NOT* -- FOR I FEEL THAT THERE IS AN IDENTITY *BENEATH* THIS IDENTITY.

EVEN WITH ALL THE POWERS BEQUEATHED ME WHEN MY BRETHREN VANISHED, I CANNOT PIERCE THE *TIMEFIELD* THAT CLOAKS THIS SELF-STYLED "*WHISPERER*."

SO -- I HAVE DISCOVERED, AT LAST, THE IDENTITY OF MY *ENEMY* --

MOMENT BY MOMENT, THE *TIMELINES* ARE BECOMING INCREASINGLY *FRAGILE*.

SOON -- VERY SOON -- I SHALL HAVE *NO CHOICE* --

-- BUT TO *INTERVENE!*



AS BACK IN AN ASGARD  
WHICH IS NOT THE ONE  
YOU KNOW...

THEN, HE WILL SERVE  
NO MORE PURPOSE--AND  
SHALL FINALLY DIE  
THE DEATH I BROUGHT  
SO NEAR TO HIM IN  
MY SERPENT FORM--

-- WHILE I, NEW  
MASTER OF  
THE ODINPOWER,  
SHALL BE  
SUPREME ON  
TWO WORLDS!

MY GOD-  
SIPHONING  
MACHINE IS  
FUNCTIONING  
WELL,  
LOKI.

SOON, I  
SHALL HAVE  
DRAINED ALL  
POWER FROM  
THE FATHER  
OF ASGARD

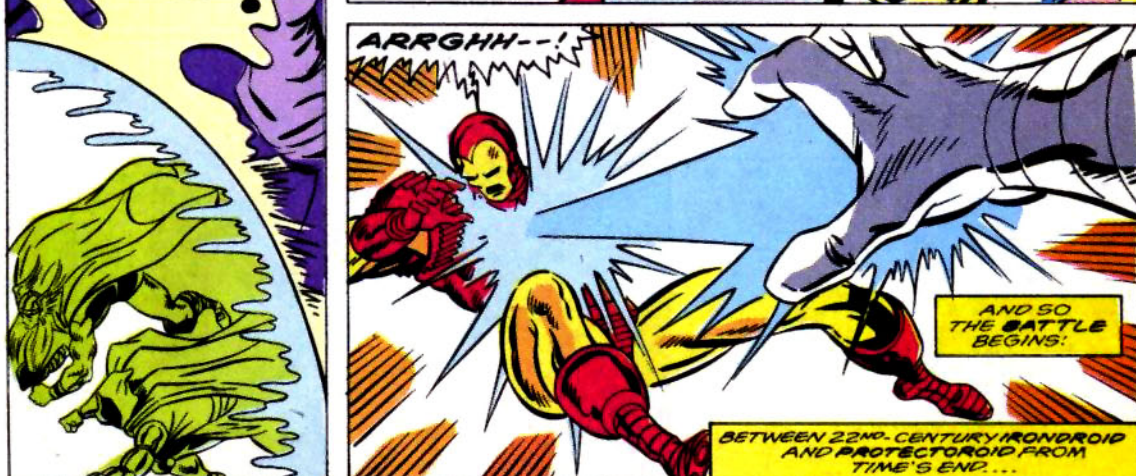
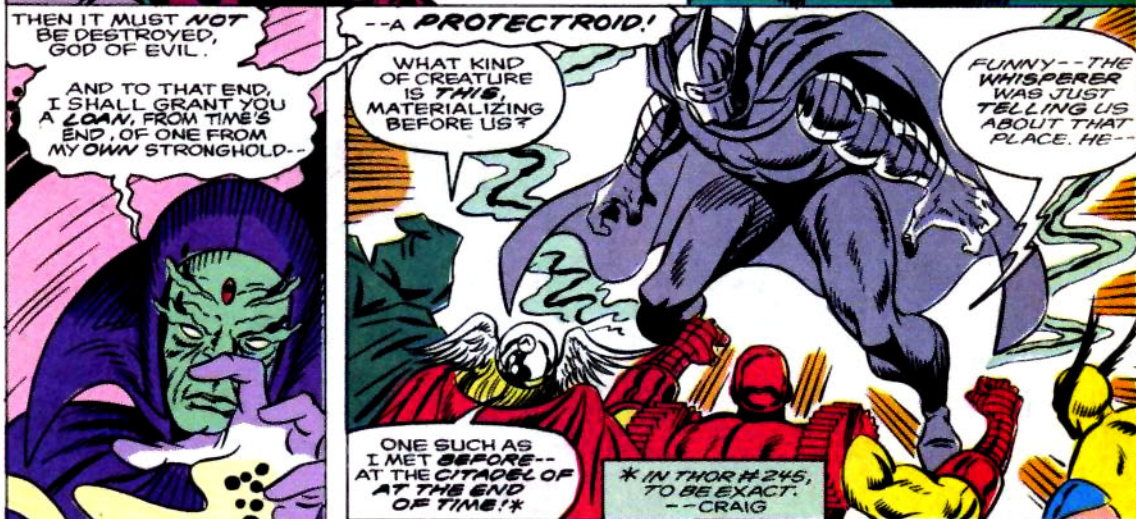
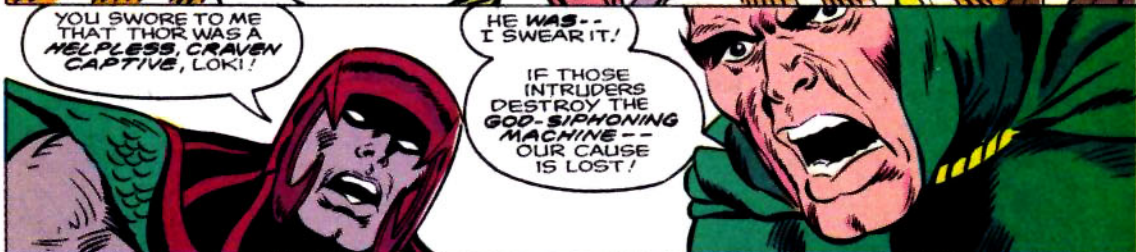
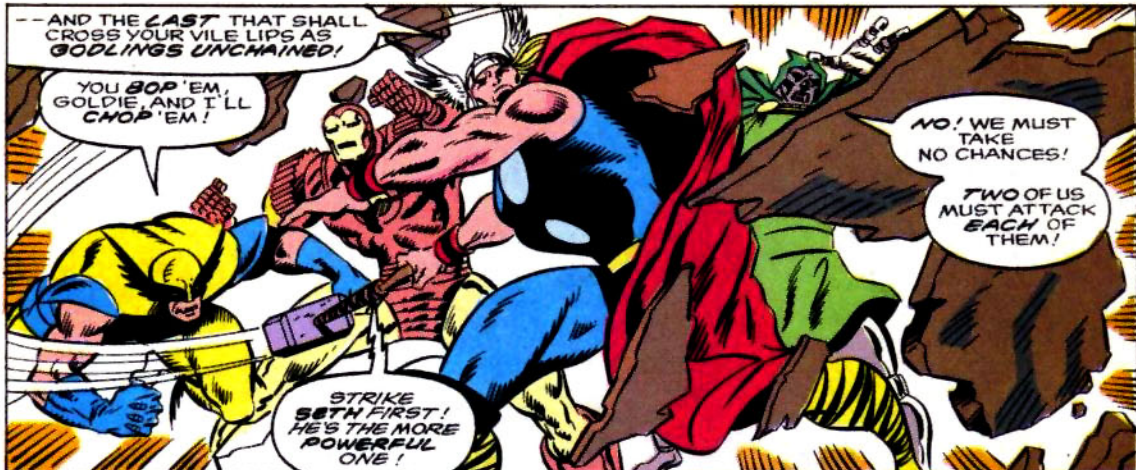
AND I SHALL  
BE YOUR  
VASSAL--YET  
STILL THE  
MASTER OF  
ASGARD.

IDEALLY,  
SETH, I ADMIT I  
WOULD HAVE  
PREFERRED TO  
ASCEND TO  
ITS THRONE  
BEHOLDING TO NO MAN  
OR GOD--

-- BUT EVEN  
A THRONE  
BEHOLDING  
TO ANOTHER IS  
FAR BETTER  
THAN NO THRONE  
AT ALL.

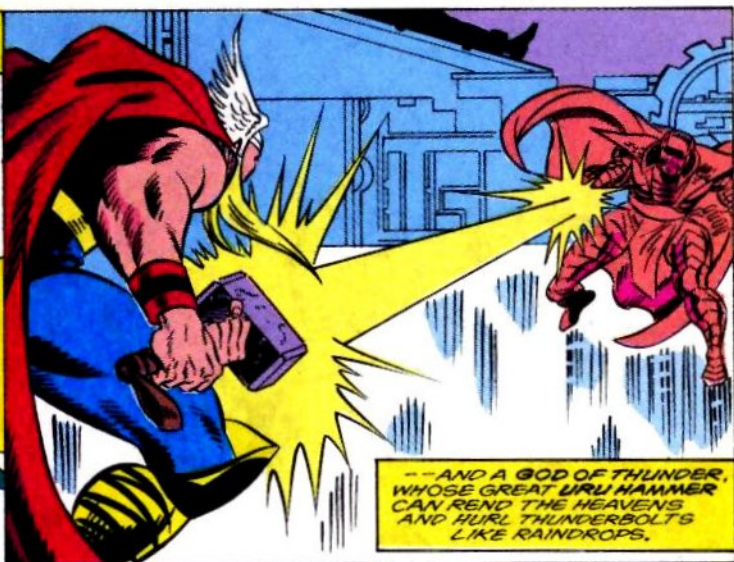
IGNOBLE  
SENTIMENTS  
IGNOBLY UTTERED,  
PRINCE OF EVIL--







BETWEEN AN EGYPTIAN GOD OF DEATH, WHO SAW THE PYRAMIDS RISE AND THE DYNASTIES FALL--



--AND A GOD OF THUNDER, WHOSE GREAT URU HAMMER, CAN REND THE HEAVENS AND HURL THUNDERBOLTS LIKE RAINDROPS.

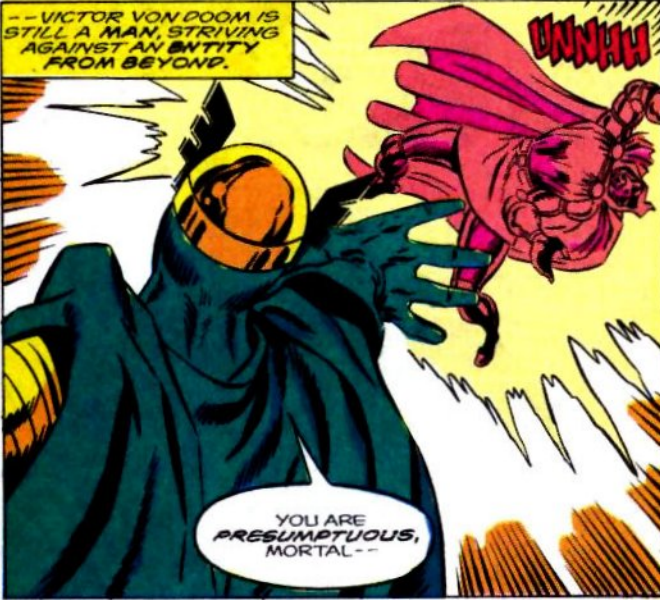
BETWEEN THE TECHNOLOGICALLY-INCLINED SON OF A DYBBY WITCH AND THE HALF-GOD, HALF-GIANT WHO IS THOR'S ADOPTED BROTHER.

OF ALL THE CONTESTS, THIS IS THE ONE WHICH IS PERHAPS MOST UNEQUAL.



FOR, POWERFUL THOUGH HE BE--  
AYE, EVEN NOBLE IN HIS WAY--

--VICTOR VON DOOM IS STILL A MAN, STRIVING AGAINST AN ENTITY FROM BEYOND.



YOU ARE PRESUMPTUOUS, MORTAL--

-- TO THINK YOU HAD A CHANCE AGAINST ONE WHO HAS DWELT LONG IN FABLED ASG--

EH?



PARDON ME, DARLIN'--





-- BUT HOW DOES  
A MUTANT  
VAMPIRE FARE  
ON YOUR SCALE  
FROM ONE TO  
TEN?

NEVER, EVEN IN  
THE WORLDS OF  
THE GODS, HAS LOKI  
ENCOUNTERED ONE  
WHO IS SUCH  
AN EMBODIMENT OF  
SHEER, RAW  
FEROCITY AS  
WOLVERINE!



IT TAKES HIM ONLY A MOMENT  
TO BE CERTAIN THAT THIS  
UNDEAD MUTATION IS  
A THREAT TO HIS QUASI-  
IMMORTAL LIFE--



--AND, AS SO  
MANY TIMES  
BEFORE, LOKI  
CHOSES  
THE BETTER  
PART OF  
A DUBIOUS  
VALOR.

GUESS IT WASN'T  
TOO HARD FOR  
HIM TO READ  
THE HANDWRITING  
ON THE WALL--

-- WHEN IT WAS GONNA  
BE WRITTEN IN  
HIS OWN BLOOD!

TIME'S END IS A VIRTUAL SARGASSO  
SEA OF TECHNOLOGY.

THUS, A 22ND-CENTURY WARRIOR  
OFFERS LITTLE MORE CHALLENGE  
TO A PROTECTROID THAN  
WOULD A 20TH-CENTURY ONE--



--OR, INDEED,  
A CAVE-  
DWELLER.

AAAGKK--!

AND YET--

--EVERY  
TECHNOLOGY  
HAS ITS WEAK  
POINTS,  
WHICH A  
PROLONGED  
BATTLE WILL  
INEVITABLY  
REVEAL.

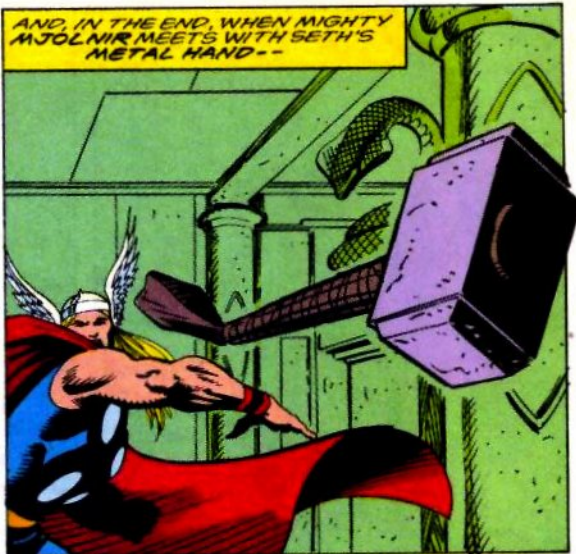


IN THE PROTECTROID'S CASE,  
IT IS A SINGLE LOOSE WIRE,  
TORN ASUNDER EVEN IN  
THE MOMENT OF A NEAR  
VICTORY--



--WHICH  
IRONROID'S  
LAST-DITCH  
ELECTRICAL  
ASSAULT--









--YOU SHALL NOT LIVE!

AND THE LAST OF THEM, THEN?

AYE, MUTANT, THAT WAS....



SIRE--

--HOW FARE YOU AFTER YOUR TRAGIC ORDEAL?

I--WILL SURVIVE--

BUT--HOW FARES ASGARD?

IT YET STANDS, MY FATHER-- AND AWAITS YOUR RETURN!



ELSEWHERE AND ELSEWHEN--

NOOOOOOOO

--THE LAST OF THREE ENTITIES WHO WOULD HAVE CONTROLLED REALITY ITSELF FADES FROM EXISTENCE--



--AND THERE IS SILENCE IN THE CITADEL AT THE END OF TIME.



NOW, THE ENIGMATIC WHISPERER APPEARS IN THE CHAMBER OF SETH--

YOU HAVE DONE WELL, MY CHAMPIONS. BUT--FOR WHOM, ROBED ONE?

AYE! LET US FOUR BEHOLD THY TRUE FACE, AT LAST!

INDEED, THAT WOULD SEEM--





--THE VERY LEAST--

--I CAN DO!



IMMORTUS!?

I'M STARTIN' TO GET A BAD FEELIN' ABOUT THIS!



BUT THE RECORDS OF THE ORIGINAL AVENGERS INDICATED YOU'D BEEN PUT INTO PERMANENT STORAGE BY THE TIME KEEPERS.

AND SO, INDEED, MY CAPTORS INTENDED, IRONDROID.

YET LIMBO WAS, AFTER ALL, MY OWN WORLD-- SUBJECT TO MY WILL.

MY JAILERS SHOULD HAVE IMPRISONED ME ELSEWHERE.



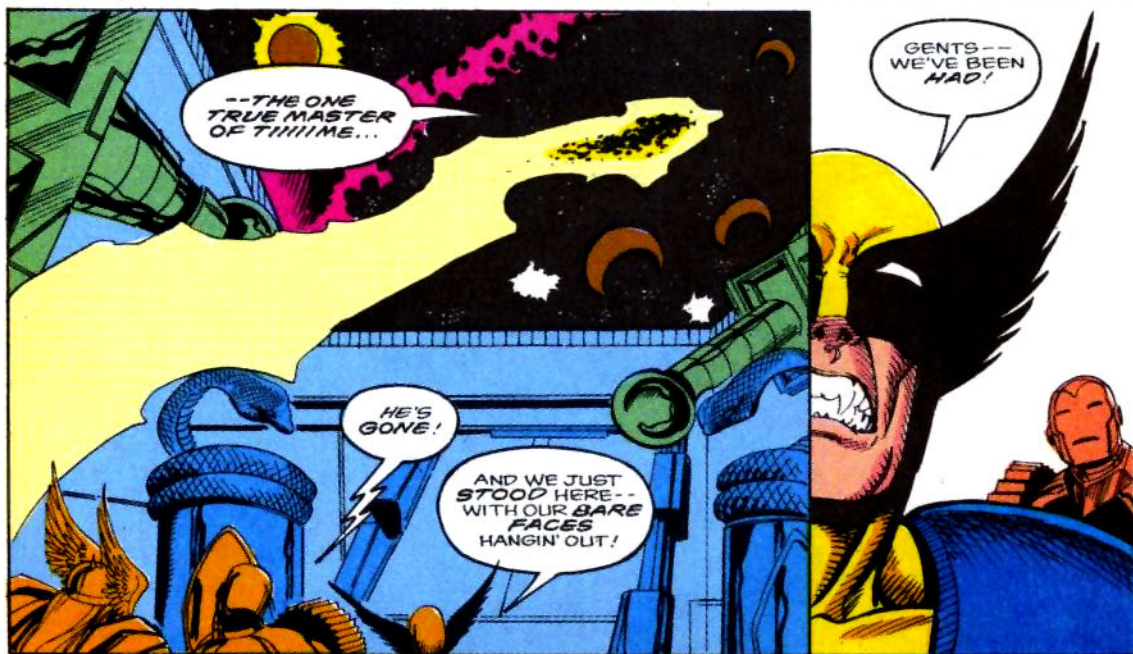
AS IT WAS, EVEN WHILE IMMOBILE, CERTAIN... CIRCUMSTANCES ALLOWED ME TO USE THE VERY NEXUS POWER WITH WHICH THEY HAD FILLED ME TO PROJECT MY ASTRAL BODY THROUGH VARIOUS UNIVERSES, TO GATHER PAWNS TO DO MY BIDDING.

I THOUGHT IT BEST TO TAKE A NEW IDENTITY, SINCE THAT OF IMMORTUS HAD SO MUCH UNFORTUNATE NOTORIETY.

I DON'T LIKE THAT WORD "PAWN"!

AND NOW THAT YOU HAVE DISPOSED OF MY OPPRESSORS, I CAN BECOME MUCH MORE THAN EVER I HAD DREAMED.

IMMORTUS CAN AT LAST BECOME--



--THE ONE TRUE MASTER OF TIME...

GENTS-- WE'VE BEEN HAD!

HE'S GONE!

AND WE JUST STOOD HERE-- WITH OUR BARE FACES HANGIN' OUT!



WHILE, IN THE NAMELESS, FACELESS WORLD OF THE TIME VARIANT AUTHORITY...

THE THING THAT WE  
**FEARED MOST**-- HAS  
COME TO **PASS**!

YES, SO WHAT IF IMMORTUS  
**HAS** GOTTEN FREE AND IS  
ERASING A FEW **REALITIES**  
OUT OF THE **MYRIAD**?

OH, I THINK  
YOU'RE BLOWING  
THIS THING UP  
OUT OF ALL  
**PROPORTION**,  
MR. FIRST  
SECRETARY.

HE IS MERELY  
RIPPING US OF  
THAT MUCH **EXCESS**  
**SAGGAGE** TO KEEP  
TRACK OF.

NO! YOU DO NOT  
**UNDERSTAND**.

THE **TIME KEEPERS**--  
ARE **MISSING**!

WHAT?  
THIS IS  
**SERIOUS**!

WE MUST ALERT  
THE **TIME ZONE**  
**MANAGER**!

THIS IS **YOUR**  
FAULT. YOU WERE  
IN CHARGE OF  
THE WORLD OF  
THE **FANTASTIC**  
**FIVE**.

BUT THAT WORLD WAS **SAVED**!  
**HE'S** THE ONE WHO **LOST**  
THE **22ND-CENTURY**!

THE **WHOLE THING**  
WOULDN'T HAVE  
HAPPENED--IF **YOU**  
HAD KEPT CLOSER  
SUPERVISION OF **LI'MBO**!

MY FELLOW **DEPUTY**  
**SECRETARIES**-- IT IS  
POINTLESS TO FIGHT  
AGAINST OURSELVES.

WE CAN DO  
**NOTHING**--  
WHILE THE  
**TIME ZONE**  
**MANAGER**  
IS ON  
**VACATION**.

IMMORTUS  
MAY WELL  
**CONQUER ALL**  
**TIMELINES**,  
AND  
CONSOLIDATE  
HIS GAINS  
BEYOND HOPE  
OF LATER  
REDEMPTION--

--UNLESS ONE OF  
**US** HAS AN  
**ORIGINAL IDEA**!

WELL?  
**DOES**  
ANYONE?

HE **NEEDN'T** HAVE ASKED.

NEXT: THE FINAL CHAPTER:  
WHAT IF THE WATCHER  
SAVED THE UNIVERSE?