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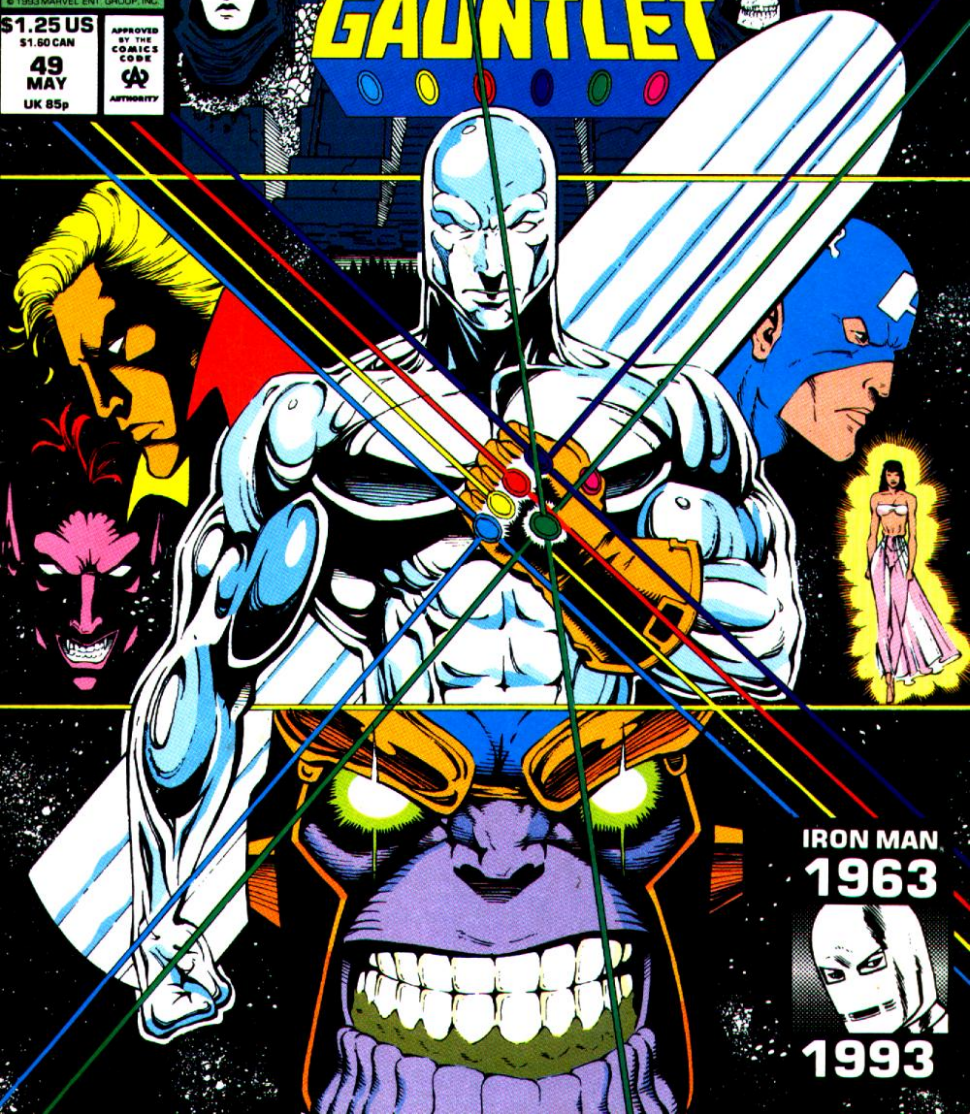
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WHAT IF... THE SILVER SURFER POSSESSED THE INFINITY GAUNTLET



IRON MAN
1963



1993

THE **SILVER SURFER**--EVER
A POWERFUL FORCE
FOR GOOD IN
THE UNIVERSE.

TRANSFORMED
BY THE IMMENSE
MIGHT OF **GALACTUS**,
NORRIN RADD NOBLY
WIELDS THE POWER
COSMIC IN SERVICE OF
THE JUST.

ONE OF HIS GREATEST
CONFLICTS--AND
SHORTCOMINGS--
IS KNOWN TO YOU AS
THE INFINITY
GAUNTLET SAGA.

AT THE BEHEST
OF ADAM WARLOCK,
THE SILVER SURFER WAS TO
SNATCH THE GAUNTLET
FROM THE GRASP OF
ITS MAD OWNER
THANOS OF TITAN.

HE
FAILED.

BUT I AM PRIVY TO
COUNTLESS REALMS CONTAINING
OTHER OUTCOMES...

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...OTHER ENDS.
I AM
THE WATCHER,
AND I ASK...

...WHAT IF THE SILVER SURFER POSSESSED THE INFINITY GAUNTLET?



IN THE REALITY
YOU KNOW, THANOS
BECAME POWER ITSELF,
WIELDING THE INFINITY
GAUNTLET TO DEFEAT
EARTH'S GATHERED
HEROES, AS WELL
AS THE COSMIC
BEINGS.

BUT HIS ARROGANCE
LED TO THE LOSS OF
THE GAUNTLET, FIRST
TO HIS SELF-PROFESSED
GRANDDAUGHTER, NEBULA,
AND ULTIMATELY TO
HIS NEMESIS,
ADAM WARLOCK.



WE SHALL
EXPLORE A DIFFERENT
CHAIN OF EVENTS, AS
THE INFINITE POWER OF
THE GAUNTLET FALLS
TO ANOTHER...

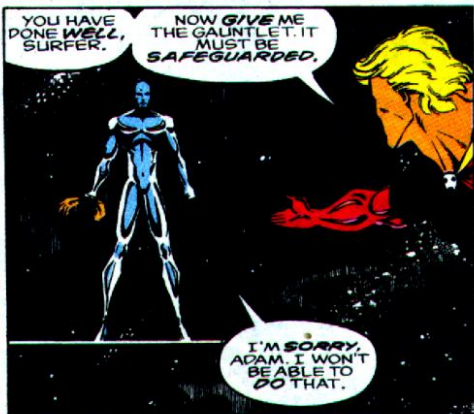


SURFER!
WE ARE
VICTORIOUS!



THE THREAT IS
AVERTED.

DON'T BE SO
SURE, WARLOCK!



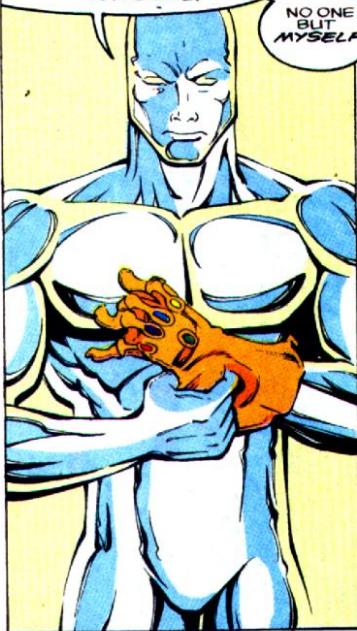
YOU HAVE
DONE WELL,
SURFER.

NOW GIVE ME
THE GAUNTLET. IT
MUST BE
SAFEGUARDED.

I'M SORRY,
ADAM. I WON'T
BE ABLE TO
DO THAT.

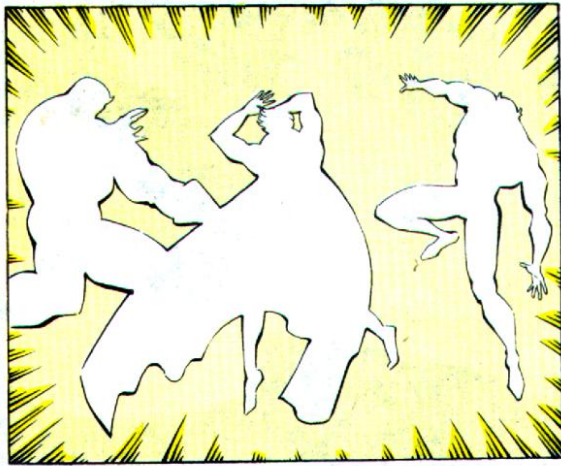
THE GAUNTLET REPRESENTS
ULTIMATE POWER. SUCH
RESPONSIBILITY I CAN TRUST
TO NO ONE.

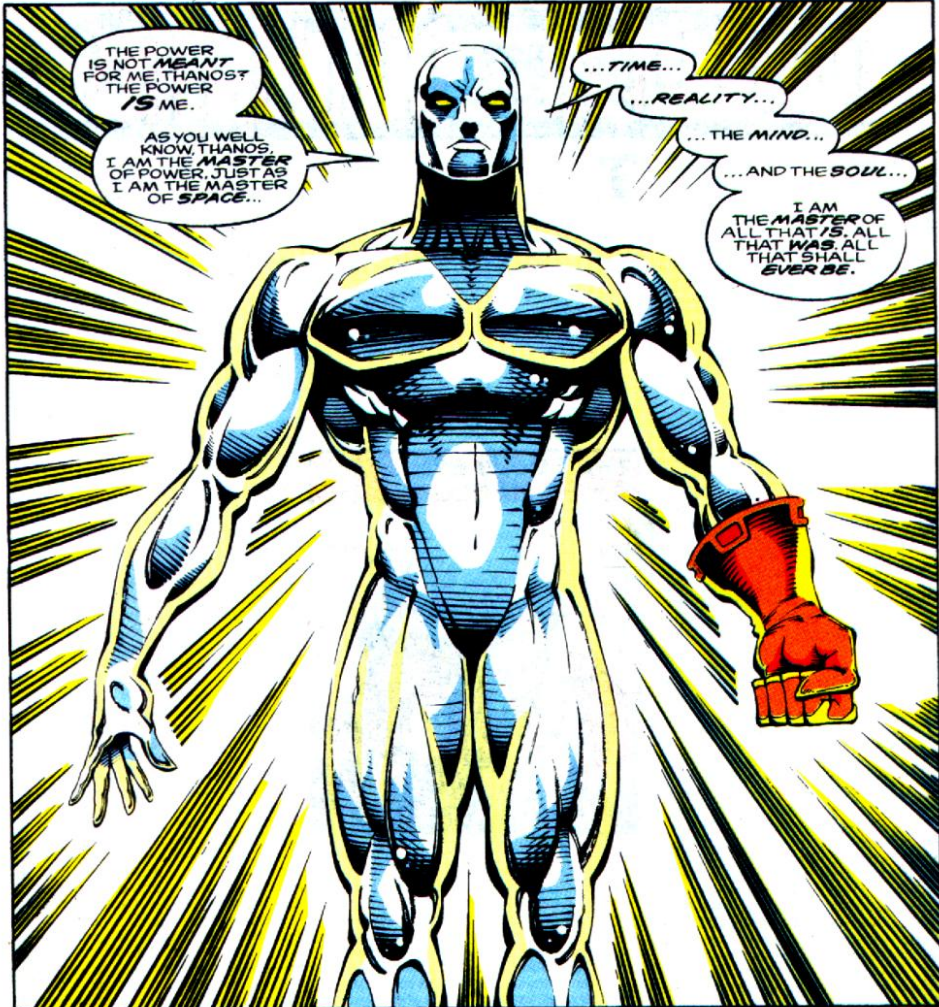
NO ONE
BUT
MYSELF.



YOU MUSTN'T!

THE POWER
ISN'T MEANT
FOR YOU!





THE POWER
IS NOT ~~MEANT~~
FOR ME, THANOS?
THE POWER
IS ME.

AS YOU WELL
KNOW, THANOS,
I AM THE **MASTER**
OF POWER, JUST AS
I AM THE MASTER
OF **SPACE**...

...TIME...

...REALITY...

...THE MIND...

...AND THE SOUL...

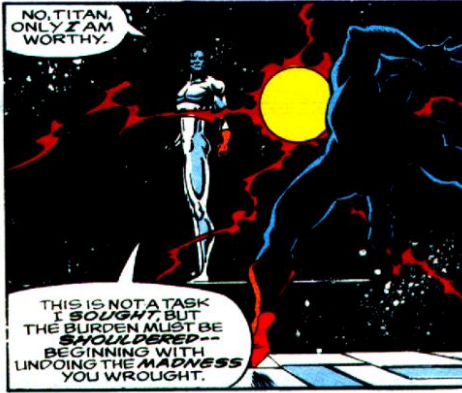
I AM
THE **MASTER** OF
ALL THAT **IS**, ALL
THAT **WAS**, ALL
THAT **SHALL**
EVER BE.

AND YOU ARE
UNWORTHY
OF IT.



ONLY **I**
AM READY FOR
GODHOOD.

NO, TITAN,
ONLY **I** AM
WORTHY.



THIS IS NOT A TASK
I **BOUGHT**, BUT
THE BURDEN MUST BE
SHOULDERED--
BEGINNING WITH
UNDOING THE **MADNESS**
YOU WROUGHT.

"ALL WHO SUFFERED
AND ~~DIED~~ SHALL BE
RESTORED..."



"...EROS..."

"...NAMOR AND
SHE-HULK..."



"...WOLVERINE..."



"...CYCLOPS AND
THE SCARLET WITCH..."



"...THE VISION..."



"...CLOAK..."



"...FIRELORD
AND DRAK
THE DESTROYER..."



"...THOR..."



"...NOVA..."



"...QUASAR..."



"...IRON MAN..."

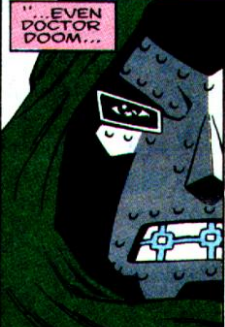
"...SPIDER-MAN..."



"...THE
HULK..."



"...EVEN
DOCTOR
DOOM..."



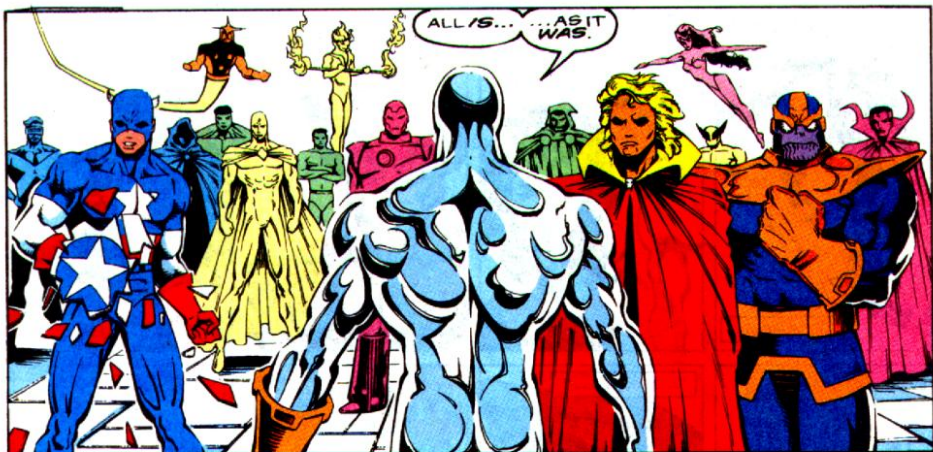
"...AND NEBULA..."

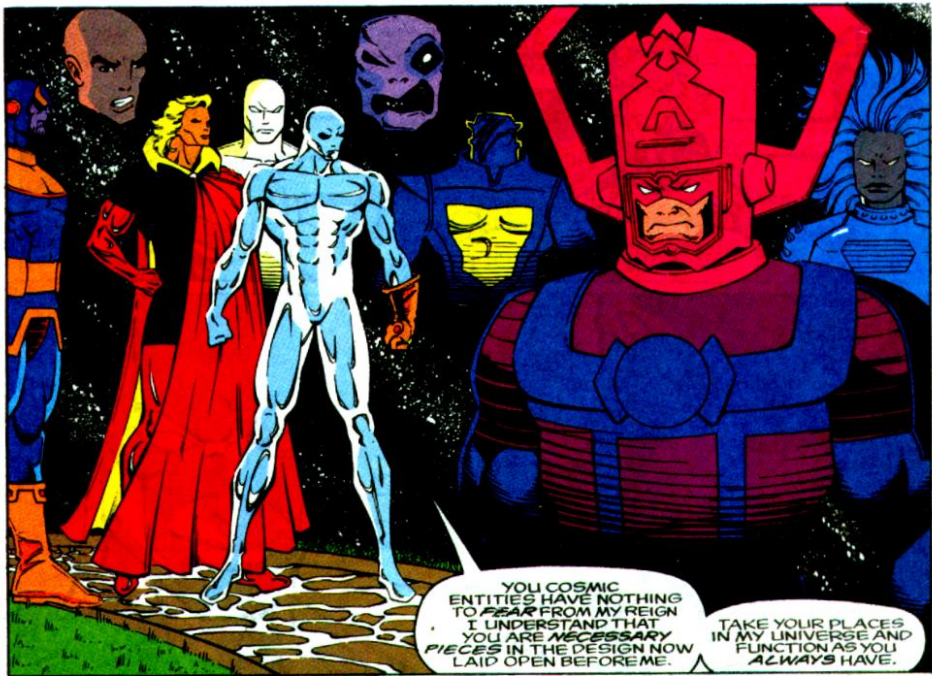


"YOUR CONSORT,
TERRAXA,
HOWEVER..."



"...MUST RETURN TO
THE NOTHINGNESS
FROM WHICH YOU
CREATED HER..."





YOU COSMIC ENTITIES HAVE NOTHING TO **FEAR** FROM MY REIGN. I UNDERSTAND THAT YOU ARE **NECESSARY** PIECES IN THE DESIGN NOW LAID OPEN BEFORE ME.

TAKE YOUR PLACES IN MY UNIVERSE AND FUNCTION AS YOU **ALWAYS** HAVE.

THE **REST** I HAVE SENT TO THEIR RESPECTIVE **REALMS**, GALACTUS. YOU I HAVE HELP BACK...



...IN ORDER TO PLEDGE THAT I BEAR YOU **NO ENMITY** BECAUSE OF OUR PAST.



NO **ILL WILL** EXISTS BETWEEN US.

I **KNOW** YOU, SURFER. I **KNOW** YOUR **FAULTS**, YOUR **FRAILTIES**.

YOU ARE NOT **READY** FOR THIS.

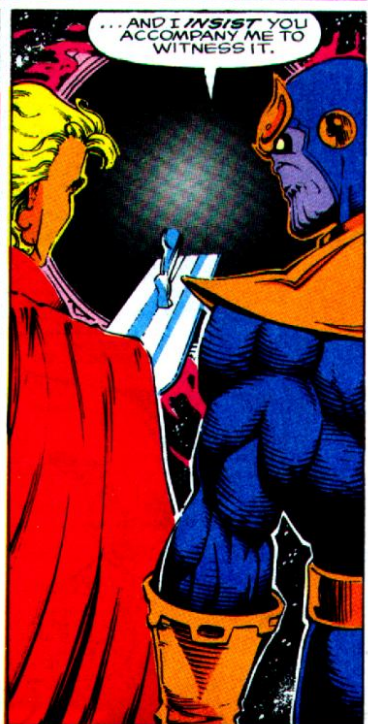
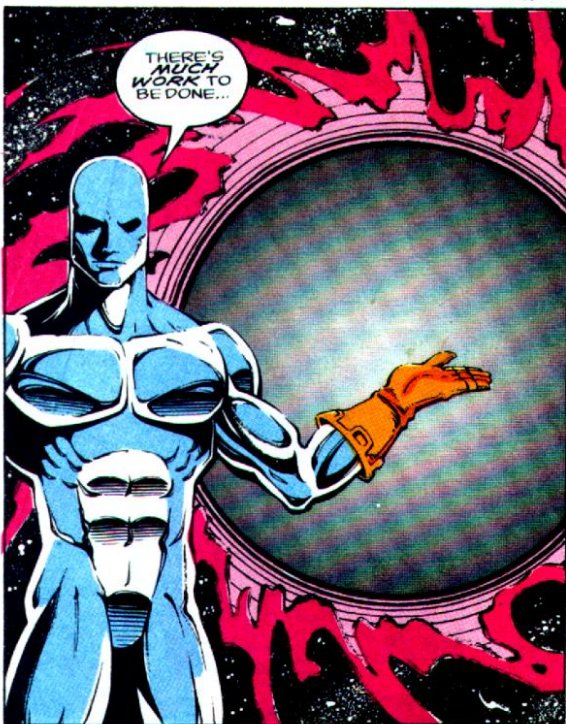
I'D HOPED FOR **BETTER** FROM YOU, GALACTUS. YOUR **JEALOUSY** IS UNSEEMLY.



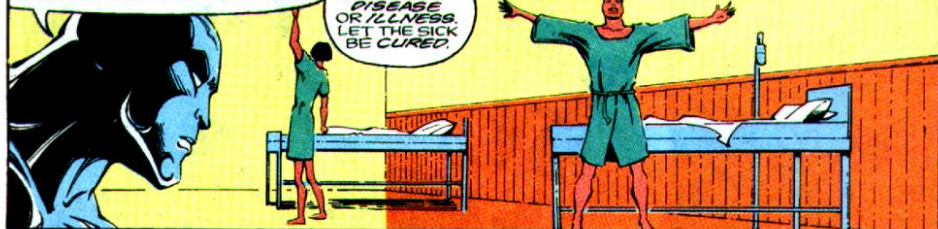
BUT HOW COULD I TRULY EXPECT A **LESSER BEING** TO UNDERSTAND WHAT I HAVE BECOME?

BEGONE, IGNORANT CHILD.



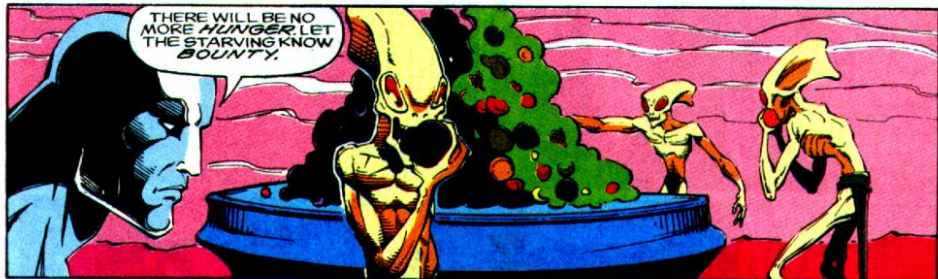


WITH THE GAUNTLET'S POWER
I CAN ACCOMPLISH SO MUCH.



THERE WILL BE NO MORE
DISEASE
OR *ILLNESS*.
LET THE SICK
BE CURED.

THERE WILL BE NO
MORE *HUNGER*. LET
THE STARVING KNOW
BOUNTY.



THERE WILL BE NO MORE
HATRED OR *WAR*. LET AGE-OLD
ENEMIES *EMBRACE*.



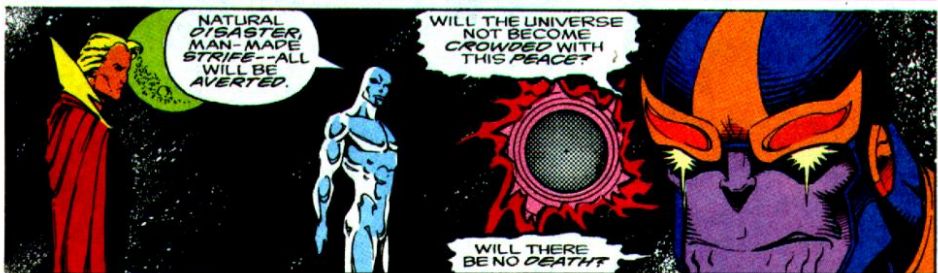
THERE WILL BE NO MORE
GREED OR *POVERTY*. LET
THE MISERLY *SHARE*
THEIR RICHES.



NATURAL
DISASTER,
MAN-MADE
STRIFE - ALL
WILL BE
AVERTED.

WILL THE UNIVERSE
NOT BECOME
CROWDED WITH
THIS *PEACE*?

WILL THERE
BE NO *DEATH*?



OF COURSE THERE
WILL BE **DEATH**. BUT
SHE WILL **NOT** BE AS
SHE WAS.



RATHER,
SHE WILL BE
SEEN AS AN
ALLURING GUIDE
TO A HIGHER
PLANE.

A BEING
TO BE
CHERISHED,
NOT
FEARED.



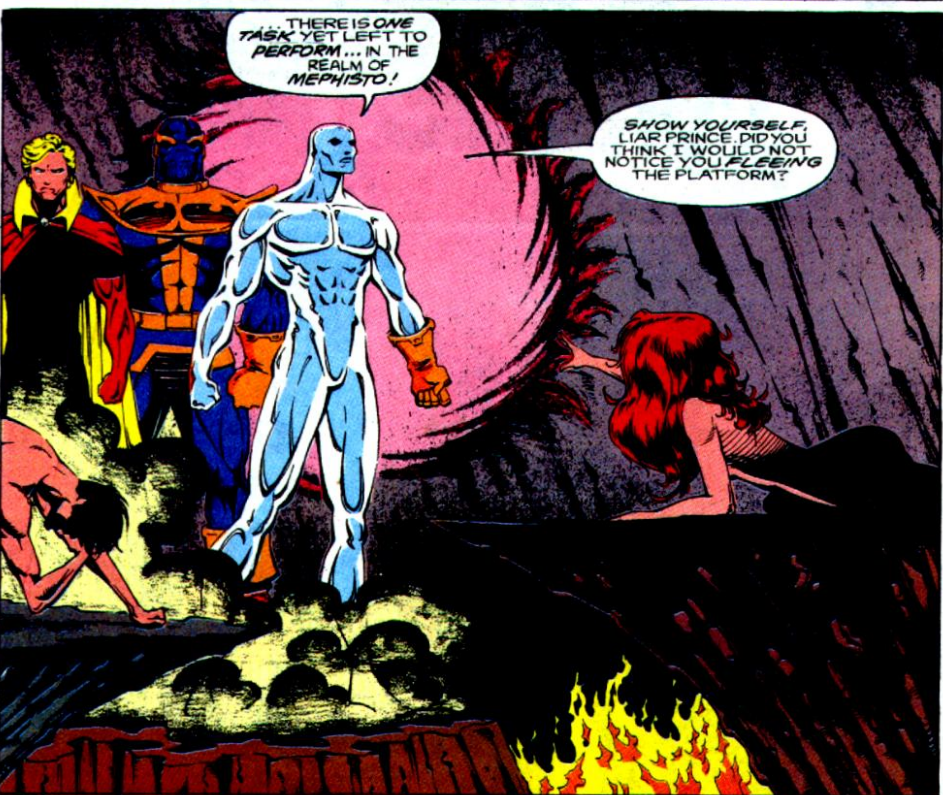
I LIKE THIS
NOT AT ALL.

YOU WILL,
IN TIME
NOW COME...



THERE IS **ONE**
TASK YET LEFT TO
PERFORM... IN THE
REALM OF
MEPHISTO!

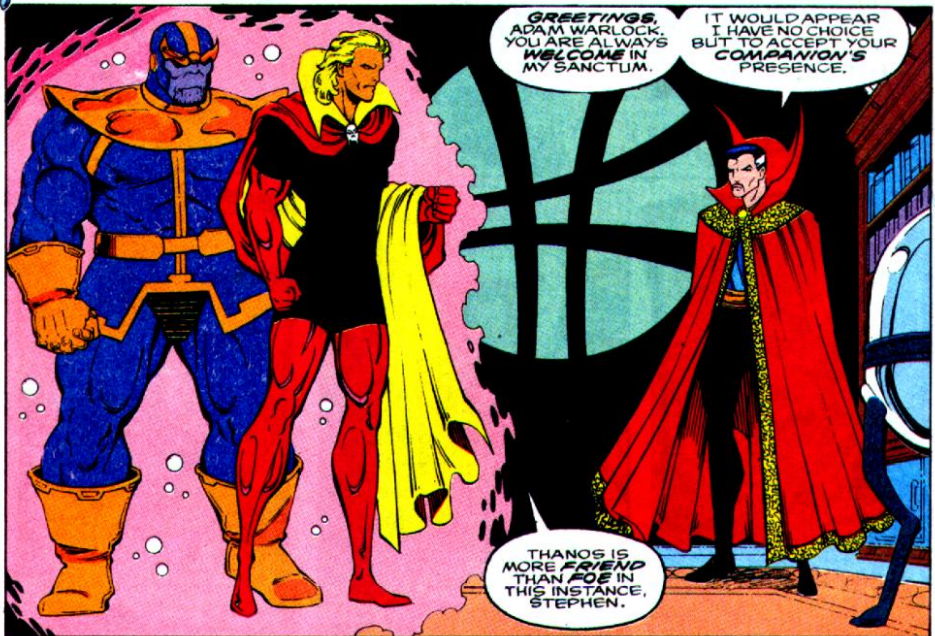
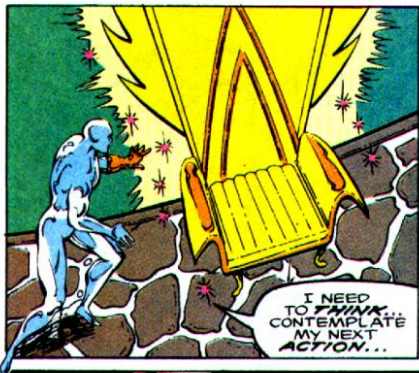
SHOW YOURSELF,
LIAR PRINCE, DID YOU
THINK I WOULD NOT
NOTICE YOU **FLEEING**
THE PLATFORM?





NOW DARE
YOU TURN YOUR
BACK ON ME!



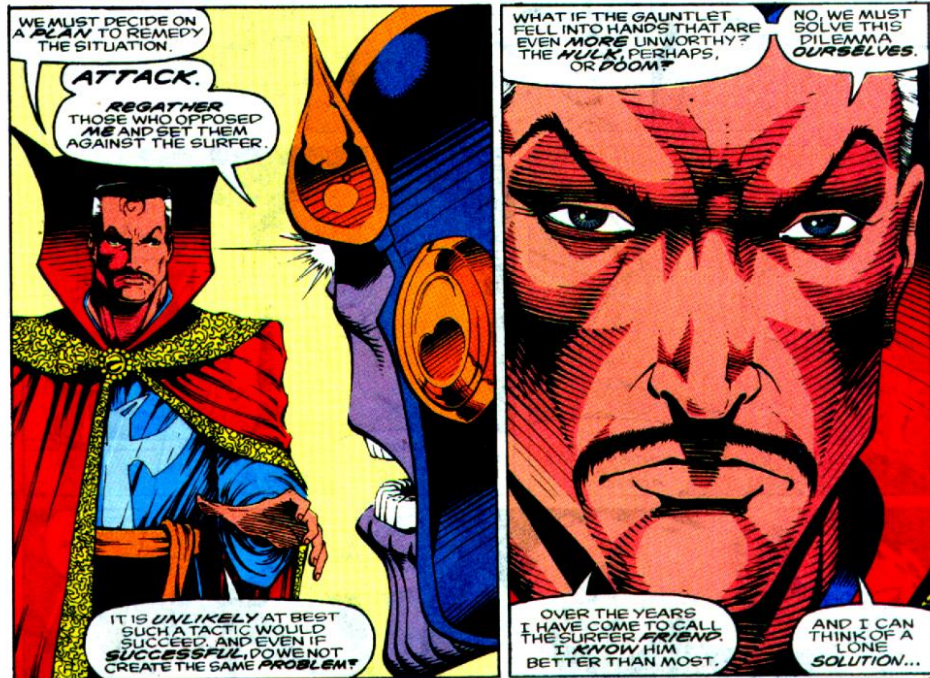




THE SURFER SENT US *HERE* FOR THE MOMENT TO KEEP US OUT OF THE WAY.

THE POWER IS BEGINNING TO *AFFECT* HIM. MEPHISTO WAS *OBILITERATED* WITH EASE.

--I AM AWARE OF ALL THAT HAS TRANSPIRED. YOUR ARRIVAL IS *OPORTUNE*.



WE MUST DECIDE ON A *PLAN* TO REMEDY THE SITUATION.

ATTACK.

REGATHER THOSE WHO OPPOSED ME AND SET THEM AGAINST THE SURFER.

IT IS *UNLIKELY* AT BEST SUCH A TACTIC WOULD SUCCEED. AND EVEN IF *SUCCESSFUL*, IT WOULD NOT CREATE THE SAME *PROBLEM*.

WHAT IF THE GAUNTLET FELL INTO HANDS THAT ARE EVEN *MORE* UNWORTHY? THE *HULK*, PERHAPS, OR *DOOM*?

NO, WE MUST SOLVE THIS DILEMMA *OURSELVES*.

OVER THE YEARS I HAVE COME TO CALL THE SURFER *FRIND*. I *KNOW* HIM BETTER THAN MOST.

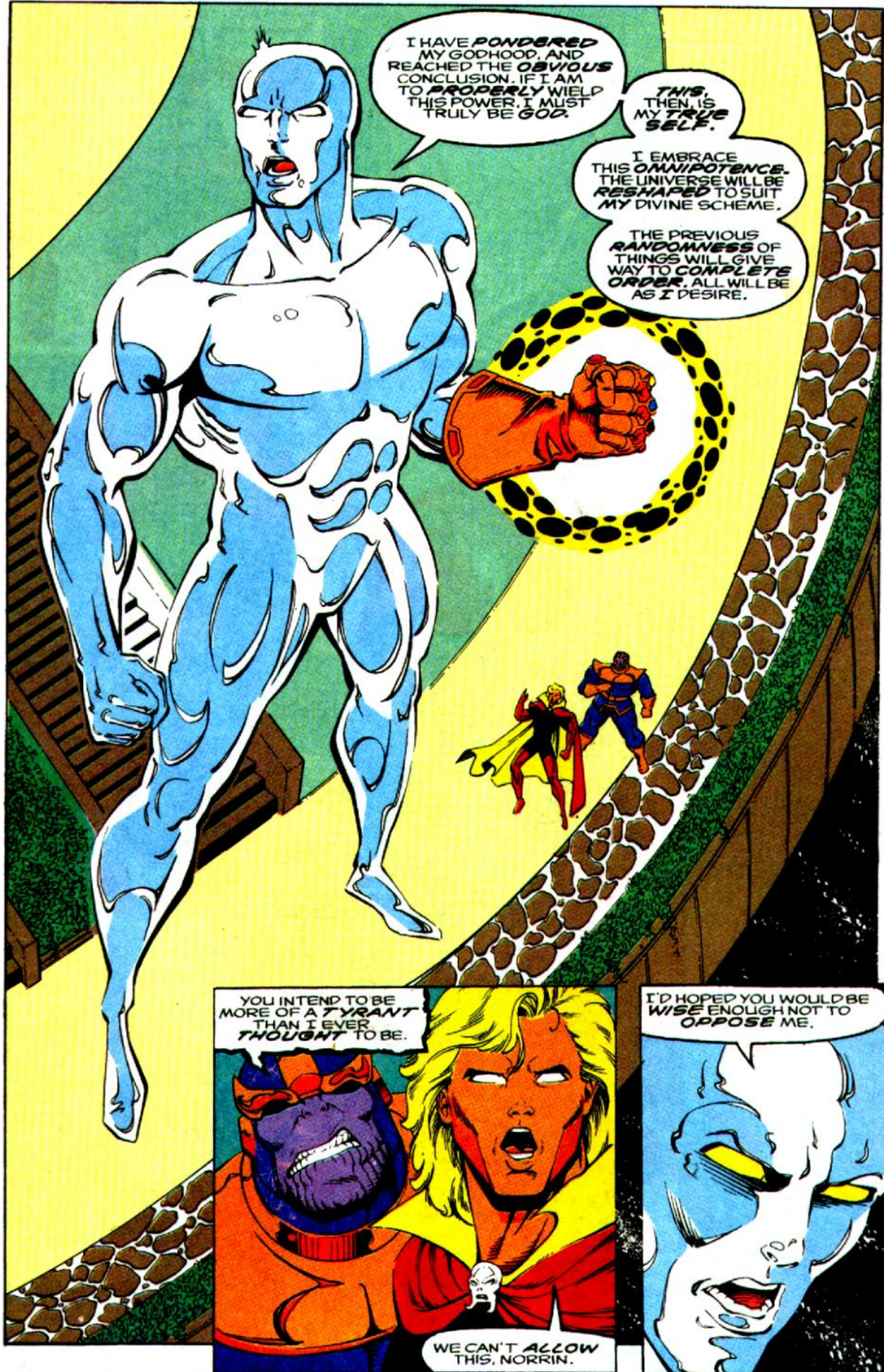
AND I CAN THINK OF A *LONE* SOLUTION...



... WILL BE THE *ONLYONE* HE MIGHT LISTEN TO...







I HAVE **POWDERED** MY GODHOOD, AND REACHED THE **OBVIOUS** CONCLUSION. IF I AM TO **PROPERLY** WIELD THIS POWER, I MUST TRULY BE **GOD**.

THIS, THEN, IS MY **TRUE SELF**.

I EMBRACE THIS **OMNIPOTENCE**. THE UNIVERSE WILL BE **RESHAPED** TO SUIT MY DIVINE SCHEME.

THE PREVIOUS **RANDOMNESS** OF THINGS WILL GIVE WAY TO **COMPLETE ORDER**. ALL WILL BE AS I DESIRE.

YOU INTEND TO BE MORE OF A **TYRANT** THAN I EVER THOUGHT TO BE.

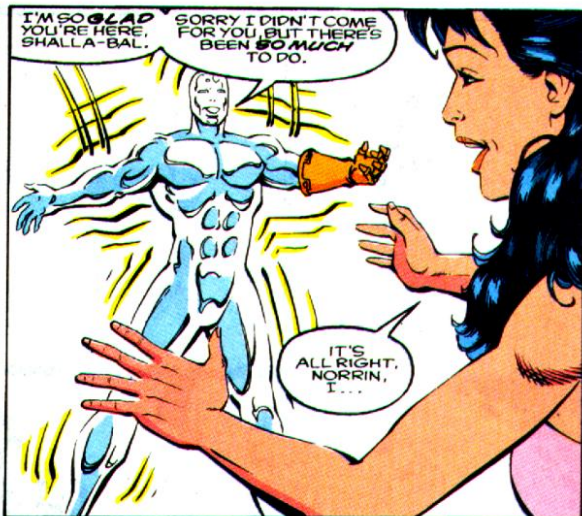
I'D HOPED YOU WOULD BE WISE ENOUGH NOT TO **OPPOSE** ME.

WE CAN'T ALLOW THIS, NORRIN.



WELCOME, STEPHEN STRANGE. I WISH I COULD CALL THIS A PLEASANT SURPRISE... BUT THERE ARE NO SURPRISES LEFT FOR ME.

IN ANY EVENT, THANK YOU FOR BRINGING MY LOVE TO ME.



I'M SO GLAD YOU'RE HERE. SHALLA-BAL.

SORRY I DIDN'T COME FOR YOU BUT THERE'S BEEN SO MUCH TO DO.

IT'S ALL RIGHT, NORRIN, I...



... I JUST NEED TO KNOW THAT YOU'RE ALL RIGHT.

OF COURSE I'M OMNIPOTENT.



BUT IS THAT WHAT YOU WANT?

WHETHER I WANT IT OR NOT IS OF NO CONSEQUENCE. IT IS MY DUTY.

BUT WHY? WHY CAN'T YOU JUST BE YOURSELF AGAIN?

I AM GOD. HOW WOULD THE WORLD GET ALONG WITHOUT ME?



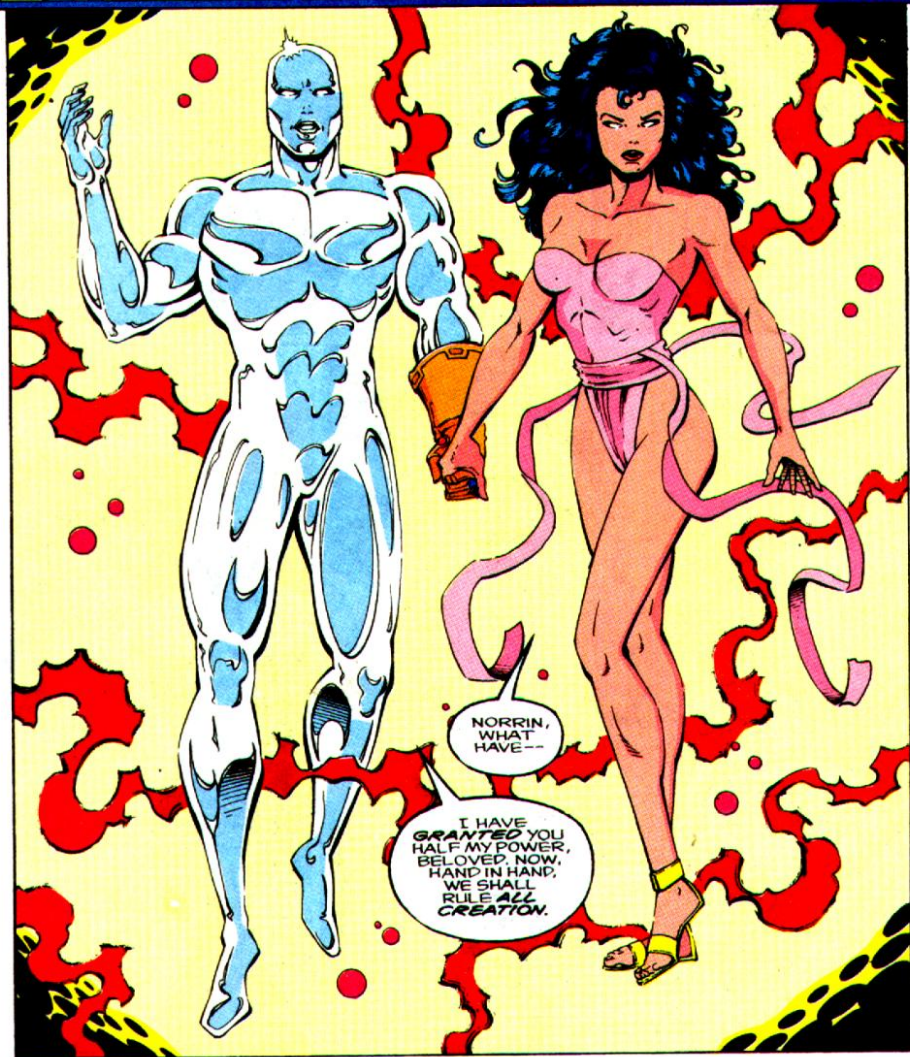
YOU ARE A MERE MORTAL. YOU CANNOT COMPREHEND WHAT I HAVE BECOME.

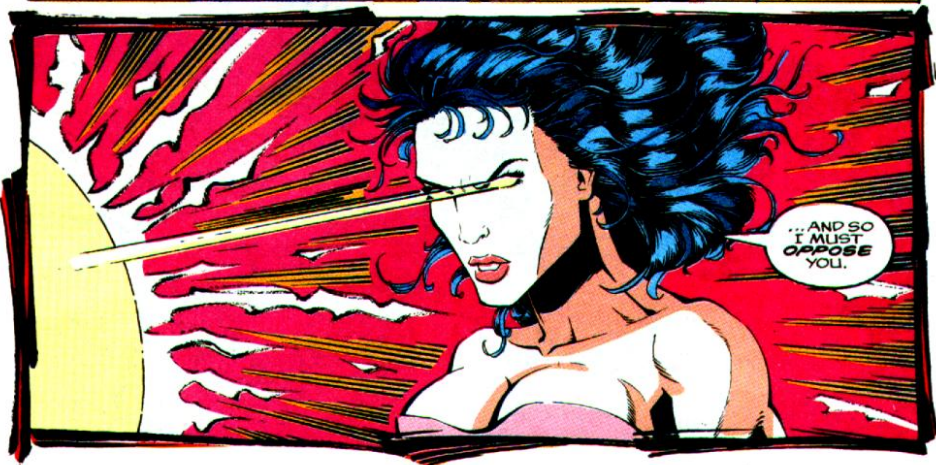
THEN WE WILL BE FOREVER APART.

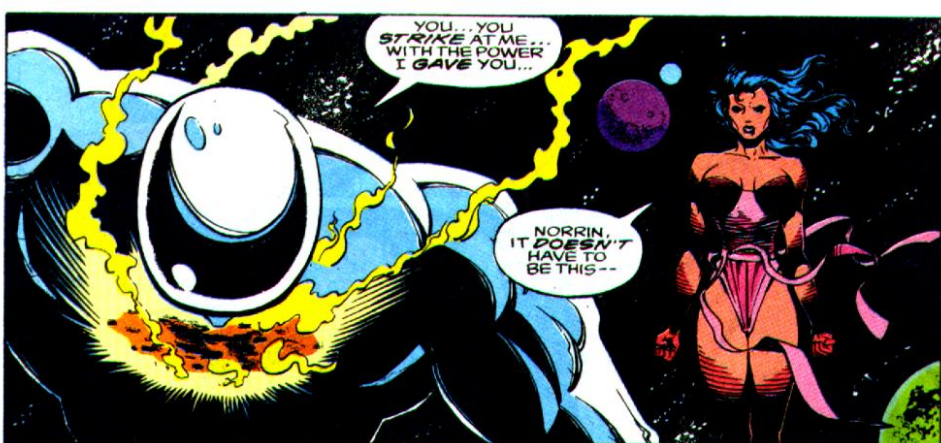
THERE IS NO NEED FOR US TO
EVER BE SEPARATED AGAIN.

NOT WHEN
THE MIGHT THAT
IS MINE...

...MAKES
ALL THINGS
POSSIBLE.







YOU HAVE
THE **INSOLENCE**
TO QUESTION
MY WILL. MUCH
LESS **DETRAY**
ME!?

YOU PROFESS
TO **LOVE** ME, YET
YOU CHALLENGE
MY **SUPREMACY**!

I CHALLENGE
YOU **BECAUSE**
I LOVE YOU, NORRIN!
BECAUSE I LOVED
WHO YOU
USED TO BE.



WHO I USED TO
BE WAS **NOTHING**
COMPARED TO WHAT
I AM NOW!

I GAVE YOU
A CHANCE TO
RECOGNIZE THAT
AND BECOME PART
OF IT. YOU
REFUSED ME.

AHH!



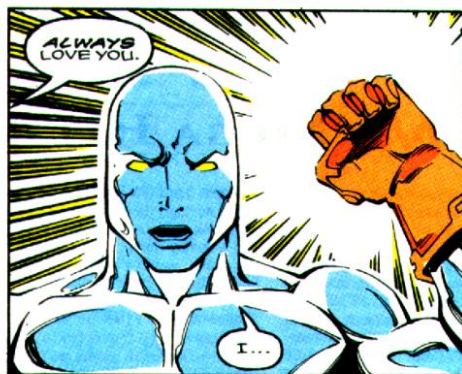
I HAVE
NO CHOICE BUT
TO JUDGE YOU
A **THREAT** TO
MY RULE...

AND
ELIMINATE
YOU.



I PRAYED IT
WOULDN'T **BE**
LIKE THIS...

... BUT NO
MATTER **WHAT**
YOU'VE BECOME,
NORRIN, I'LL
ALWAYS
LOVE YOU.



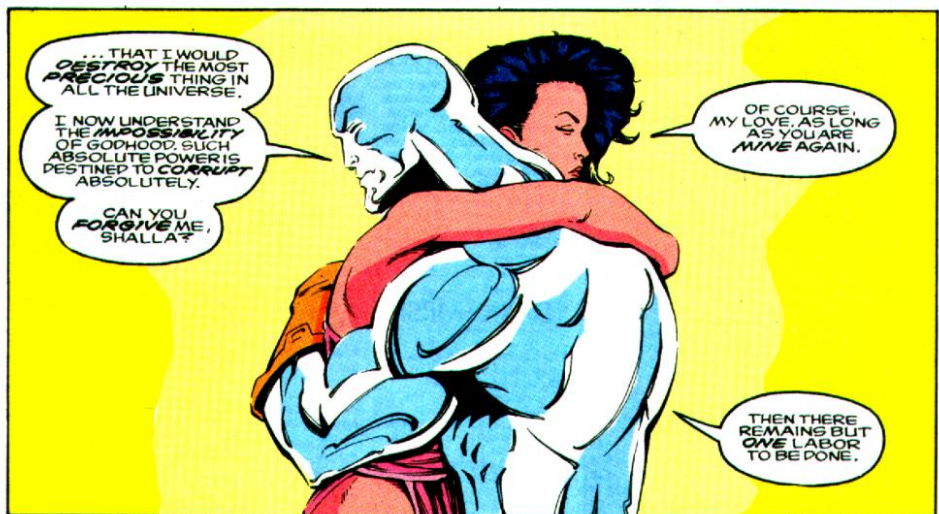
ALWAYS
LOVE YOU.

I...



... I HAVE
LOST
MY MIND!

WHAT
MANNER OF
MONSTER HAS
THIS GAUNTLET
MADE
OF ME...



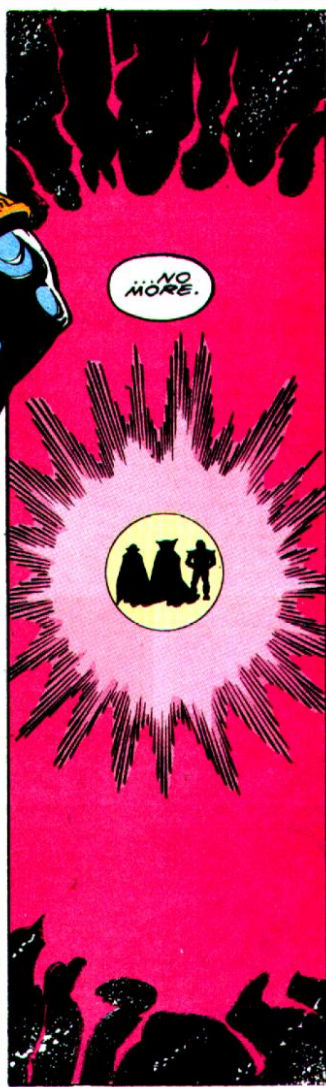
... THAT I WOULD
DESTROY THE MOST
PRECIOUS THING IN
ALL THE UNIVERSE.

I NOW UNDERSTAND
THE **IMPOSSIBILITY**
OF GODHOOD. SUCH
ABSOLUTE POWER IS
DESTINED TO **CORRUPT**
ABSOLUTELY.

CAN YOU
FORGIVE ME,
SHALLA?

OF COURSE,
MY LOVE, AS LONG
AS YOU ARE
MINE AGAIN.

THEN THERE
REMAINS BUT
ONE LABOR
TO BE DONE.





THEY'RE **GOONS**.
SACRIFICED
THEMSELVES
TO ASSURE THEY
DID NOT BECOME
GEL **ETAL**.
DESPOTS.



"NO GREATER LOVE HATH
A MAN THAN TO LAY DOWN
HIS **LIFE** FOR HIS
FELLOW MAN."

I'LL ADMIT,
EVEN I'M
IMPRESSED.

THE SURFER
DIED AS NOBLY
AS HE **LIVED**.
HIS PASSING
WILL BE
MOURNED.



THERE IS NOTHING HERE
FOR US ANY LONGER.
WILL YOU **ACCOMPANY**
ME BACK TO EARTH?

YES, STEPHEN.
THANK YOU.
I SHOULD FIND
PIP AND
GAMORA.

I SHALL STAY...
AND **PONDER**
WHAT HAS
OCCURRED.



AS YOU
WISH.



SO
CLOSE.



OH,
YES...



...SO VERY
CLOSE.



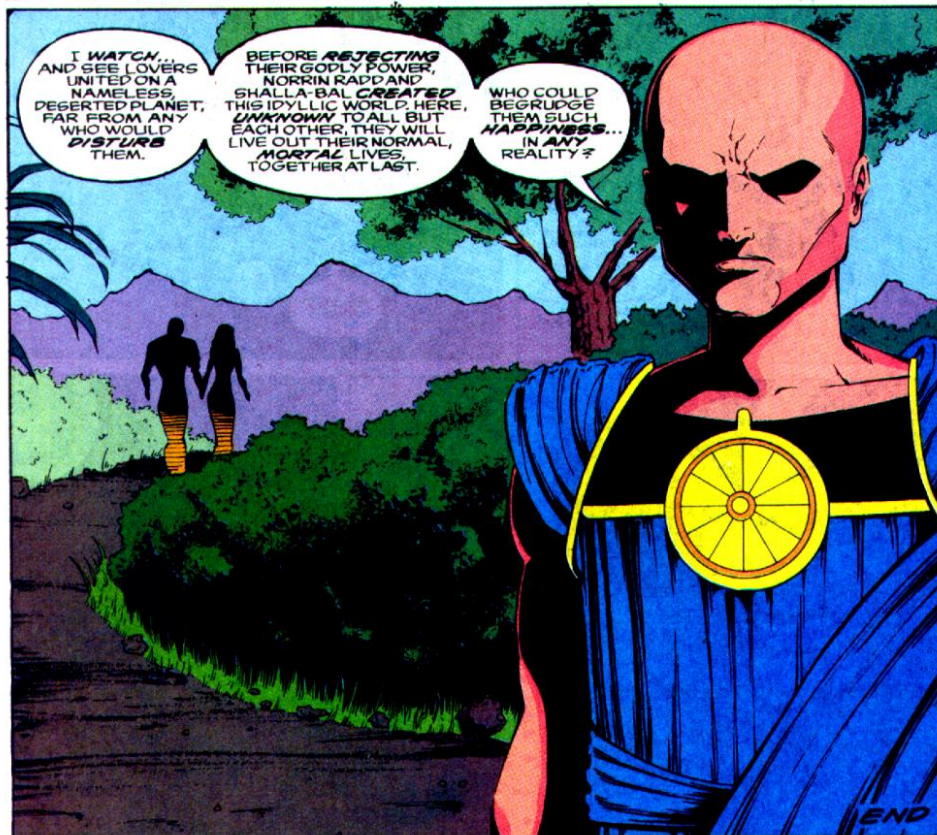
...SO BEAUTIFUL HERE...



...LIKE PARADISE.

IT'S WHAT WE'VE ALWAYS WANTED, ISN'T IT?

ALL WE ~~EVER~~ WANTED, SHALLA, AND NOW NO ONE CAN TAKE IT AWAY FROM US.



I WATCH... AND SEE LOVERS UNITED ON A NAMELESS, DESERTED PLANET, FAR FROM ANY WHO WOULD DISTURB THEM.

BEFORE ~~REJECTING~~ THEIR GODLY POWER, NORRIN RADD AND SHALLA-BAL **CREATED** THIS IDYLIC WORLD. HERE, ~~UNKNOWN~~ TO ALL BUT EACH OTHER, THEY WILL LIVE OUT THEIR NORMAL, MORTAL LIVES, TOGETHER AT LAST.

WHO COULD BEGRUDGE THEM SUCH HAPPINESS... IN ANY REALITY?

END