

AVENGERS

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# THE AVENGERS

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Telegram-Marvel comics  
(Avengers)



**STAN LEE,**  
EDITOR

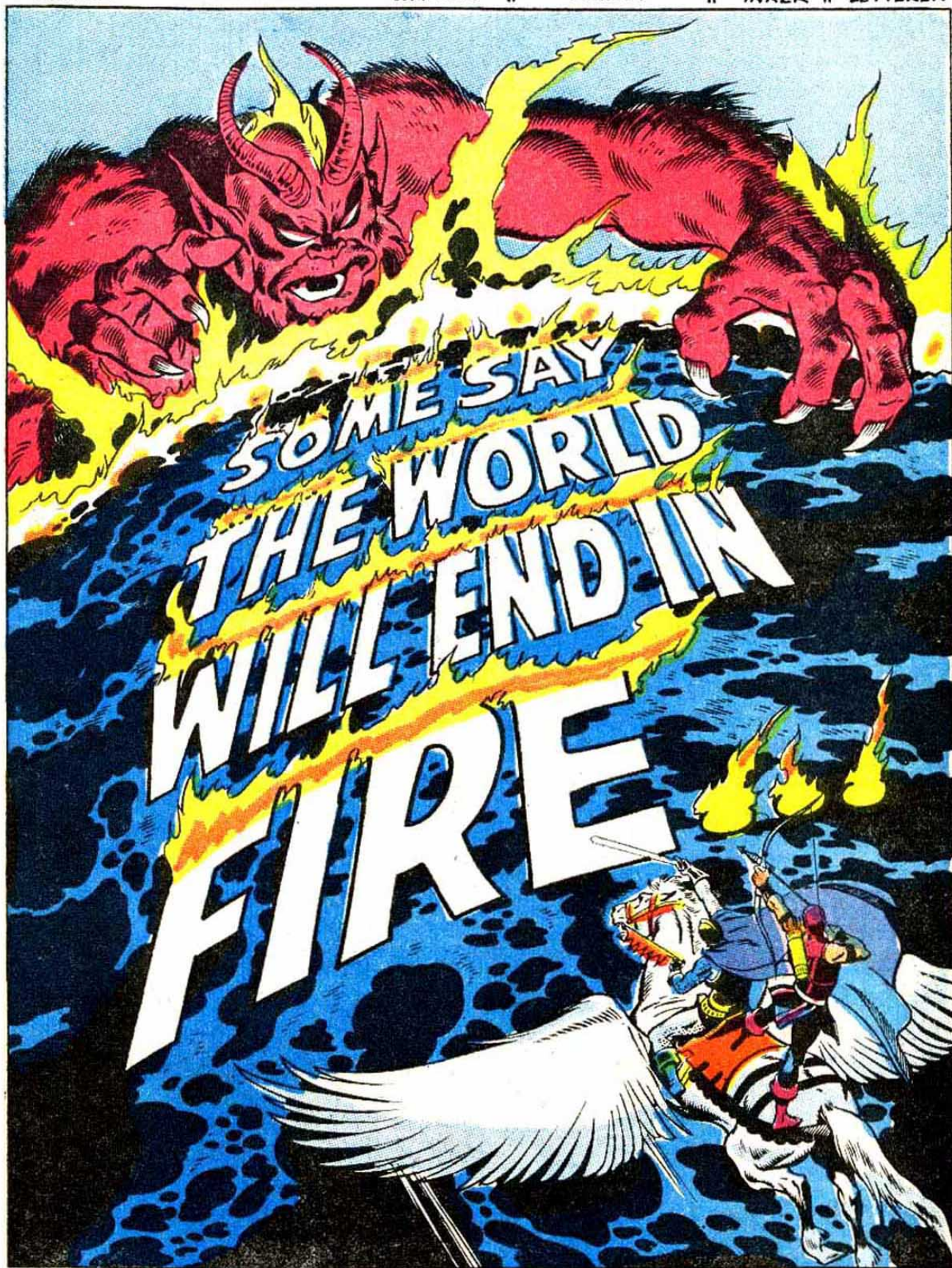
PRESENTS A  
STAR-STUDDED  
AVENGERS SAGA

By: **ROY THOMAS**  
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INKER

**SAM ROSEN**  
LETTERER









**THREE A.M.**... AS THE SLEEPING CITY WRAPS ITSELF EVER MORE TIGHTLY IN ITS MANTLE OF DARKNESS! BUT, THERE ARE POCKETS OF LIGHT AMIDST THE SHADOWS... AND ONE OF THESE IS THE FAR-FAMED **AVENGERS MANSION**...

**MORE POWER,  
T'CHALLA...  
MORE!**  
LET ME DRINK  
IN THOSE LIFE-  
GIVING RAYS!

ONE TALL  
PITCHER OF  
**SOLAR  
ENERGY...**  
COMING UP!

NOW YOU'RE  
STARTIN' TO SOUND  
LIKE ME, PANTHER!

'CEPT, I COULDN'T HAVE  
DREAMED UP THIS **GIZMO**  
YOU AND HANK INVENTED!

ALL I'M GOOD FOR IS  
TURNIN' **DIALS** AND  
PUSHIN' **LEVERS** WHEN  
YOU TELL ME TO!

WHAT IN  
BOW-SLINGIN'  
BLAZES ARE YOU  
DOIN' TO OL'  
DARK-EYES,  
ANYHOW?

I'M **FEEDING** HIM, THOUGH  
HAWKEYE... IN A  
MANNER OF  
SPEAKING!

THE  
**VISION** MAY  
LOOK MUCH  
LIKE A **MAN**,  
HIS BODY IS  
STILL THAT OF  
AN **ANDROID**...

...A **SYNTHETIC**  
HUMAN, WHO  
ABSORBS **SOLAR**  
RAYS THRU THE  
TEAR-SHAPED  
**JEWEL** IN HIS  
FOREHEAD!

AN ADMIRABLE, IF **OVER-  
SIMPLIFIED** EXPLANATION,  
PANTHER!

BUT, I HARDLY  
NEED TO BE  
**REMINDED**  
THAT I'M  
NOT TRULY  
**HUMAN!**

**SORRY,**  
VISION... I  
DIDN'T...

**FORGET IT!**  
I HATE HEROES  
WHOSE MAIN  
SUPERPOWER  
IS **BREAST-  
BEATING!**

TURN THE POWER  
OFF, PLEASE... I'M STARTING  
TO GET A **FEEDBACK!**

SO THAT'S WHAT THAT  
NUTTY **JEWEL** IS FOR...  
A **SOLAR SPONGE!**

AND HERE I THOUGHT  
MAYBE YOU WERE A  
**PART-TIME CYCLOPS!**

**HAWKEYE...  
HOLD IT!!**





WHY'D YOU **RUSH OUT** LIKE THAT, T'CHALLA?

TIME FOR YOUR **CAT-NAP** ALREADY?

SOMETHING FAR MORE **URGENT** THAN THAT, I'M AFRAID!

I COULD SENSE...AN **ALIEN PRESENCE** NEARBY!



HEY... YOU'RE RIGHT! **LOOK...UP THERE!**

DUNNO WHO THAT IS, BUT ONE **SHOCK-ARROW** OUGHTTA...  
**HOLY SMOKE!**

THE **ARROW** HAS NOT BEEN **MADE**, AVENGER...

...THAT CAN HARM **DOCTOR STRANGE!**

**DR. STRANGE?** WE MET YOU AT JAN'S **WEDDING!**

BUT WE DIDN'T KNOW YOU HAD--  
**SUCH POWER!**



AND WHY SHOULD I **WISH** TO PROVE MY **POWER**, MY FRIEND...

WHEN MY SOLE PURPOSE IS TO **PROTECT** THE WORLD...

...FROM THINGS IN WHICH IT **REFUSES TO BELIEVE!**

LIKE **YOURSELF**, PALE-FACE?

**WAIT...** LET'S HEAR **MORE!**

THERE'S NO **TIME** FOR TALK!

I CAN SAY ONLY... THAT I NEED YOUR **HELP!**



**FOLLOW** MY ETHEREAL FORM... IN THE NAME OF ALL YOU HOLD **SACRED!**

FOR, MARK MY WORDS... THE FATE OF A **PLANET** RESTS UPON YOUR SHOULDERS!

WELL, LONG AS YOU PUT IT **THAT** WAY...

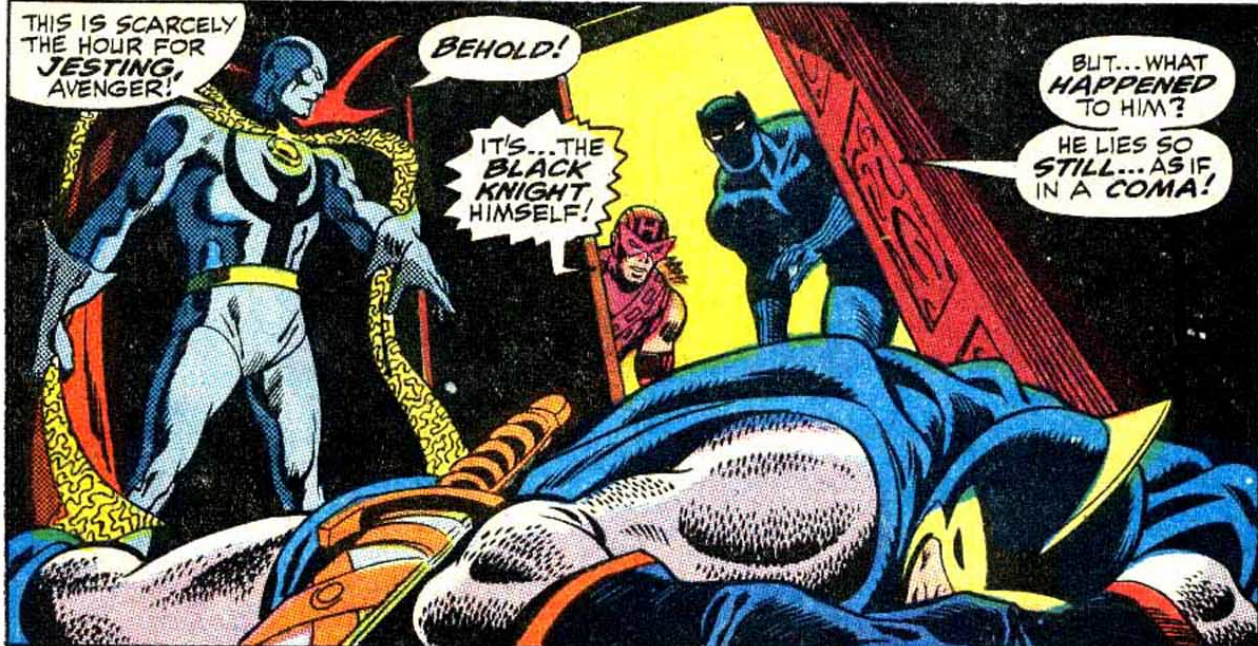
THE ARCHER SPEAKS FOR US **ALL**, MYSTIC!

LEAD WHERE YOU WILL...AND WE SHALL **FOLLOW!**









THIS IS SCARCELY  
THE HOUR FOR  
**JESTING,**  
AVENGER!

**BEHOLD!**

IT'S...THE  
**BLACK KNIGHT**  
HIMSELF!

BUT...WHAT  
**HAPPENED**  
TO HIM?

HE LIES SO  
**STILL...AS IF**  
IN A **COMA!**



A **COMA**...YES,  
THAT'S HOW I  
WOULD HAVE  
DESCRIBED HIS  
STATE...WHEN  
I WAS A  
**PHYSICIAN!**

YET, IT WAS INDUCED IN A  
MANNER I WOULD ONCE  
HAVE SCORNE...AS  
**IMPOSSIBLE!**

'T WAS AFTER WE  
HAD RETURNED  
FROM THE DIMEN-  
SION OF DREAD  
**TIBORO.\***

\* AS DEATH-  
LESSLY  
DETAILED  
IN **DR.**  
**STRANGE**  
**#178...NOW**  
ON SALE!  
... **STAN.**



"...WE HAD **BLANKED OUT** THE MINDS OF THE  
REMAINING **SONS OF SATANNISH**...EXCEPT  
FOR THE ONE CALLED **MARDUK**..."

HELP US COMBAT THE  
**SPELL OF FIRE AND**  
**ICE, CAPTIVE ONE...**

AND THE FATES  
MAY DEAL  
MORE **KINDLY**  
WITH YOU!

THERE'S  
SOMETHING IN  
OUR **QUARTERS**  
YOU CAN USE...

IN THE **GRAVE-**  
**YARD** JUST BELOW...

**DOWN,**  
**ARAGORN!**



"BUT, **MARDUK** PROVED PERHAPS THE  
MOST **TREACHEROUS** OF ALL THE  
POWER-CRAZED **SONS OF**  
**SATANNISH**..."

HERE'S WHAT I WAS  
TALKING ABOUT, **STRANGE!**

**THIS CRYSTAL**  
**OF CONQUEST!**

**STRANGE...  
LOOK OU...!!**

HE TOOK THE  
MYSTIC **BOLT--**  
MEANT FOR  
**ME!**





THEN, TAKE THIS ONE INSTEAD...

OHHH!

YOU'LL NOT STRIKE A SECOND TIME, VIPER!



NOW, **SPEAK**, FOOL... FOR THE TIME GROWS SHORT BEFORE **EVIL BEYOND IMAGINING** IS UNLEASHED UPON EARTH!

**SPEAK...** BEFORE I FORGET MY **VOW** NEVER TO TAKE A **HUMAN LIFE**!

DOES THAT **CRYSTAL** TRULY CONTAIN SUCH **POWER** AS YOU CLAIMED?

S-STAY AWAY FROM ME!

I'LL... TELL YOU ALL...



...AND, TELL HE **DID**... ENOUGH TO ASSURE ME THAT THIS **CRYSTAL** MAY WELL BE EARTH'S ONLY HOPE OF **SURVIVAL**!

BUT... SURVIVAL IN THE FACE OF **WHAT**, MAN?

NO TIME FOR THAT NOW!

YOUR **CAPTIVE**, MYSTIC! IS HE..?

HE LIVES, PANTHER... THOUGH UNDER MY **SPELL**!

IT IS THE **WORLD** WHICH IS NOW OUR SOLE CONCERN!



**CORRECTION**, MAGE...

OUR SOLE CONCERN... AFTER THE **BLACK KNIGHT**!

FOR THE SAVING OF **MANKIND** BEGINS ... WITH BUT A **SINGLE LIFE**!



**SOON, BACK AT HQ...**

...BUT, I CAN'T DO WHAT YOU SUGGEST! I CAN, NOT!

YOU SAID BACK THERE YOU USED TA BE A DOCTOR!

THE BOWMAN IS RIGHT!

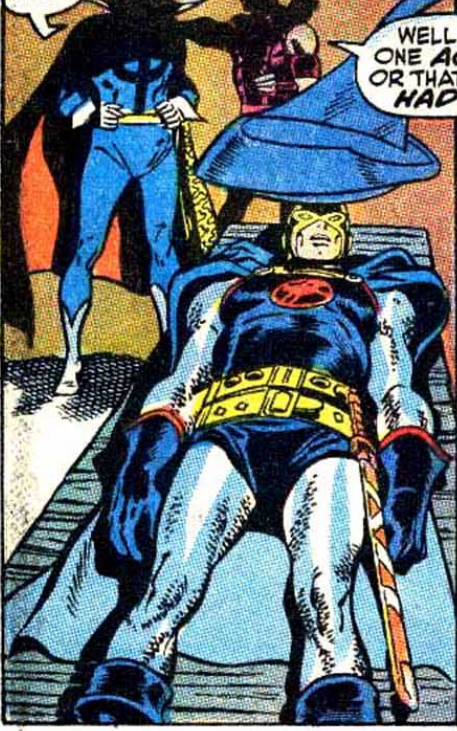
MY MAGIC...THE AVENGERS'RE-JUVENATOR... HAVE DONE ALL THEY CAN!

NOW, IT IS UP TO THESE!

WELL, BE ONE AGAIN... OR THAT JOE'S HAD IT!

LOOK AT THEM... AT HOW THEY SHAKE!

IS THEIR SKILL TRULY GONE... OR DO THEY TREMBLE WITH FEAR?



THE SAME TWO HANDS THAT HAVEN'T HELD A SCALPEL SINCE... THAT NIGHT!



NO MATTER! A SLIP FOR ANY REASON... AND A MAN DIES!

**LONG MOMENTS TURN SLOWLY, AGONIZINGLY, INTO MINUTES...**



CAN'T... GO ON...!

YET... I MUST!



NOTHING COMPLICATED ABOUT THE OPERATION!

IF ONLY WE COULD GET ANOTHER DOCTOR...!

BUT... NO TIME... NO TIME!

THEN...

IT'S... OVER! HE WILL LIVE!

THANK GOD!



...THE REJUVENATOR WILL SOON RESTORE YOU TO PERFECT HEALTH, MY FRIEND!

YOU... SAVED MY LIFE!

IT WAS A SIMPLE OPERATION!

ANY NUMBER OF DOCTORS COULD HAVE DONE IT!

BUT, ANY NUMBER DIDN'T... YOU DID!



PANTHER... HAWKEYE... WHAT HAS HAPPENED?





THE VISION!!

WE WERE WONDERING WHERE YOU HAD VANISHED TO!

I NEVER GET USED TO THE WAY YOU CAN WALK THRU WALLS!

NEITHER DO I, PANTHER!

BUT LISTEN... TO WHAT I JUST LEARNED!

SHOW AND TELL, VIZH!

BUT THEN, HAVE WE GOT NEWS FOR YOU!



"WHATEVER IT MAY BE, HAWKEYE, IT CAN HARDLY EQUAL THE REPORTS I JUST MONITORED OF NEW-BORN VOLCANOES..."

"...FIRE-BELCHING MONSTROSITIES, COMING TO BLAZING, MOLTEN LIFE IN... ANTARCTICA!!"



JUST THEN...

SECTOR 29, CALLING T'CHALLA, SON OF T'CHAKA...

CONDITION ALERT! REPEAT... CONDITION ALERT!



IT'S A CALL FROM ONE OF MY TRIBE... IN THE HIDDEN LAND OF THE WAKANDAS!

JUST WHERE IS THIS AFRICAN KINGDOM OF YOURS, T'CHALLA?

THAT, I FEAR, EVEN THE AVENGERS MAY NOT KNOW!

SUFFICE IT TO SAY... IT EXISTS!

T'CHALLA IS HERE, N'BASA....



...IT IS BEYOND DESCRIPTION, MIGHTY CHIEFTAIN!

ICE FORMS ON THE GROUND... ON THE VINES...!

THE VERY AIR CHILLS THE SOUL TO ITS MARROW!







AND SOON, AS WE REJOIN OUR OTHER TWO  
AVENGING STALWARTS...

THE NEW  
QUINJET I  
DESIGNED IS  
WORKING  
PERFECTLY!

ALREADY, MY  
SECRET  
EMPIRE LIES  
DIRECTLY  
BELOW  
US!

MY ULTRA-  
POWERED  
EYES  
DETECT SOME-  
THING...

SOME MASSIVE  
FORM... GLEAMING  
IN THE JUNGLE SUN...!



BEFORE, WE  
GRAZED THE  
MONSTER BY  
ACCIDENT!

BUT NOW,  
WE MUST  
STRIKE  
HIM...





THE FROST GIANT  
SHATTERED...  
INTO A MILLION  
FRAGMENTS!

WHILE WE WERE  
ABLE EASILY TO  
SAVE OURSELVES!

PERHAPS OUR MASKED  
MYSTIC OVERESTIMATED  
THE DANGER OF HIS  
DEAD FOE'S SPELL!

HAIL,  
W'TAMBI...  
HOW STANDS  
MY KING-  
DOM?

DANGEROUSLY NEAR  
THE PRECIPICE OF  
DISASTER, MY PRINCE...

FOR...  
LOOK  
BEHIND  
YOU!!

NO...  
IT CAN'T  
BE..!

THE ONE CALLED  
YMIIR... **RESHAPED**  
HIMSELF FROM HIS  
OWN FRAGMENTS...

...TO HURL A  
GIGANTIC  
**ICE SPEAR**  
AT US!

THE ICE-GIANT IS  
INDESTRUCTIBLE!

WHILE, AT ALMOST THAT SELFSAME MOMENT, HUNDREDS OF  
MILES TO THE SOUTH, A SUPERSONIC JET TRANSPORT  
LANDS TO DISGORGE AN EQUALLY STARTLED PAIR...

THIS IS LIKE SOMETHIN' OUTTA  
A BAD DREAM!

WE'RE SMACK DAB  
ON THE ANTARCTIC  
CIRCLE...  
AND THE AIR'S  
FILLED WITH  
STEAM!

AND...  
LOOK  
THERE...  
THRU THE  
BLINDING MIST!

I SEE IT...  
BUT I DON'T  
HAVETA  
BELIEVE  
IT...!





WHAT DOES IT MATTER TO ME WHETHER OR NOT YOU ACCEPT MY EXISTENCE, FOOL?

WHAT COULD IT POSSIBLY MATTER TO... **SURTUR**, THE FIRE DEMON??

WOW! THAT CREEP'S GOT A VOICE LIKE AN ASGARDIAN FOGHORN!

DON'T BE AWED BY HIS FEARFUL TONES, AVENGER!

FIRE A **BLAST-ARROW** AT HIM... **NOW!**



MISTER, I DON'T REMEMBER ANYBODY PUTTIN' YOU IN CHARGE OF THIS LITTLE SAFARI...

BUT, SINCE THAT'S WHAT I'M **HERE** FOR...!



HOLY COW! IT'S NOT POSSIBLE!

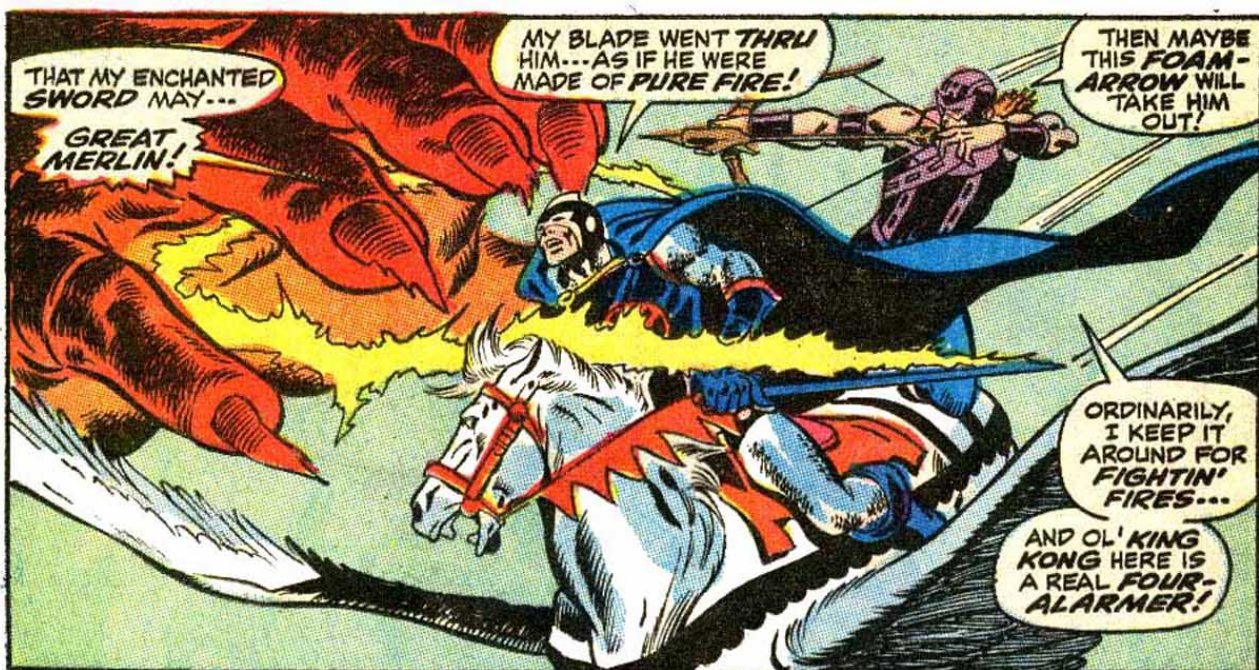
HE **SWALLOWED** MY ARROW... LIKE IT WAS CANDY!



IF YOUR **ARROWS** ARE OF NO AVAIL, MY FRIEND...

THEN LET **ARAGORN** SWOOP SWIFTLY DOWNWARD..





THAT MY ENCHANTED SWORD MAY...

**GREAT MERLIN!**

MY BLADE WENT **THRU** HIM... AS IF HE WERE MADE OF **PURE FIRE!**

THEN MAYBE THIS **FOAM-ARROW** WILL TAKE HIM OUT!

ORDINARILY, I KEEP IT AROUND FOR **FIGHTIN' FIRES...**

AND OL' **KING KONG** HERE IS A REAL **FOUR-ALARMER!**



**NO GOOD, I'M AFRAID!**

AND...HE'S RAISING HIS OWN **FLAMING SWORD!**

**DON'T SWEAT IT, DON QUIXOTE!**

AS LONG AS WE'RE OUTTA HIS **REACH**, WHAT CAN IT DO?



**MORE THAN MORTAL MINDS CAN IMAGINE, DOLT!**

FOR, IT WAS FORGED IN THE **IMMORTAL FIRES OF ASGARD...**

AS YOU NOW LEARN...  
**TO YOUR SORROW!**

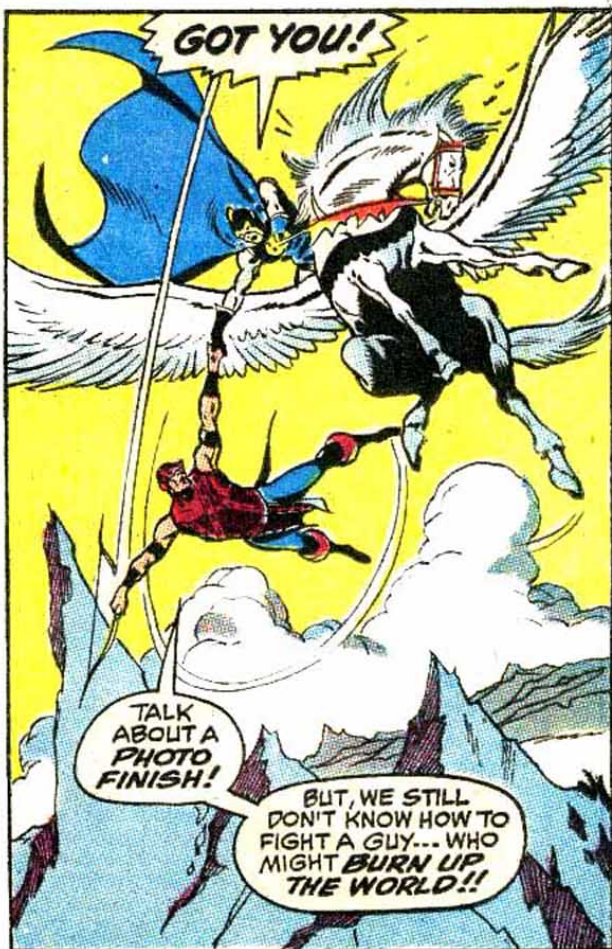


THAT **SHOCK**...IT HURLED US FROM **ARAGORN'S BACK!**

YET, ALREADY, MY FAITHFUL STEED FLIES **BENEATH ME**... TO BREAK MY FALL!

BUT, **HAWKEYE**... WHERE IS...??





MEANWHILE, MANY MILES AWAY, TWO OTHER AVENGERS ARE THINKING *SIMILAR* THOUGHTS...

EVERYTHING HE TOUCHES...IS FROZEN SOLID!

HE COULD TURN THE EARTH INTO AN ICY WASTELAND!







THEN YOU BOUGHT THAT SECOND, FOOL... WITH YOUR LIFE!

AAARRHH!



NOW, WHERE IS THE OTHER PUNY MORTAL WHO DARED DEFEY YMIR?

UP HERE, FROST GIANT...

AS THE VISION KNEW, WHEN HE LURED YOU BENEATH THIS LEDGE!

NOW, IF ONLY I CAN TOPPLE THIS DELICATELY-BALANCED BOULDER...



IT FALLS... CARRYING MANY MORE WITH IT!

NOW TO FREE THE VISION!



THE VISION NEEDS NO FREEING, T'CHALLA!

I CONDENSED MY MOLECULES TO WITHSTAND THE CRASHING BOULDERS...

JUST AS I NOW REVERSE THE PROCESS... TO PASS THRU THEM!

STILL, OUR ATTACK ONLY SLOWED THE GIANT... NOT DESTROYED HIM...



...IT IS DR. STRANGE WHO HOLDS THE KEY TO OUR ULTIMATE VICTORY... IF ANY MAN DOES...

LONG ENOUGH HAVE I PORED OVER... MEDITATED UPON...

THE CRYSTALS OF CONQUEST!





NOW, I MUST CAST MY OWN, UNSPOKEN  
**SPELL OF LEVITATION** UPON THIS  
GLEAMING ENIGMA!

IF IT  
**FLOATS** IN  
THE AIR, I  
HAVE  
ACHIEVED  
**MASTERY**  
OVER IT!

IF IT  
**FALLS**...PERHAPS  
A **WORLD** FALLS  
WITH IT!



IT **STAYS**...  
AT MY  
**COMMAND!**

MAY THE  
DEATHLESS  
**VISHANTI**!  
BE PRAISED!

THE CRYSTAL  
WILL NOW DO MY  
**BIDDING!**

YET, THIS IS  
NOT THE HOUR  
FOR **REJOICING!**

FOR, BY ONE EMPOWERED  
OF **SATANNISH** WERE  
THE TWO MONSTERS  
**FREED!**

WILL EVEN  
THE **MIGHT**  
OF THAT SAME  
ENTITY...  
STORED  
WITHIN THIS  
**CRYSTAL**...

...PROVE  
POTENT  
ENOUGH TO  
**REVERSE**  
THAT SPELL...



"...BEFORE THE VERY **EARTH** IS LAID WASTE BY TWIN MENACES OF SEARING HEAT  
AND BLINDING COLD?"





YOU BURIED YMIR BENEATH  
TONS OF BOULDERS... AND  
HE FROZE THEM BRITTLE  
AS GLASS!

HOW CAN YOU HOPE  
TO STOP HIM WITH  
JUST A BURN-  
ING TREE  
TRUNK?

VISION,  
I AM  
PRINCE  
OF THE  
PROUD  
WAKANDA!

MAY I  
BEHOLD MY  
SUBJECTS  
DRIVEN  
FROM THEIR  
HOMELAND...

WHILE I  
STAND IDLY  
BY... AND DO  
NOTHING?



THEN, DO  
WHAT YOU  
MUST,  
PANTHER...  
AND LEAP  
TO SAFETY!

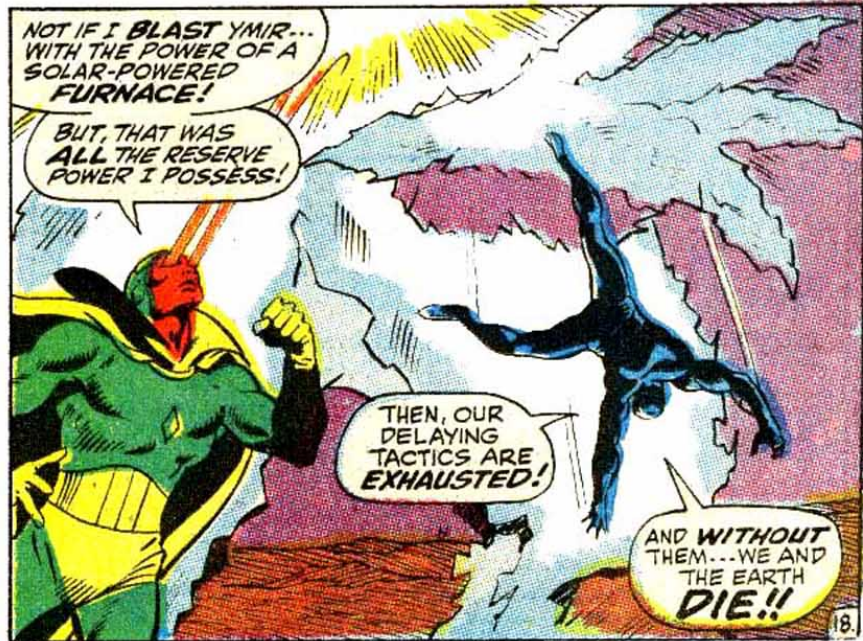
HAH!  
'TIS FAR TOO  
LATE  
FOR THAT,  
MORTALS!



TOO LATE FOR  
ANYTHING... SAVE  
DEATH!

CAUGHT... IN THE  
IMMORTAL'S ICY GRIP!

SO... COLD!  
I'LL BE FROZEN  
SOLID... IN...  
SECONDS...!



NOT IF I BLAST YMIR...  
WITH THE POWER OF A  
SOLAR-POWERED  
FURNACE!

BUT, THAT WAS  
ALL THE RESERVE  
POWER I POSSESS!

THEN, OUR  
DELAYING  
TACTICS ARE  
EXHAUSTED!

AND WITHOUT  
THEM... WE AND  
THE EARTH  
DIE!!



WHILE, TO VIEW ANOTHER CLIME,  
ANOTHER FOE...

FOOLS...  
YOU FLY  
STRAIGHT  
INTO MY  
GRASP!

HE'S RIGHT!  
WHAT GIVES,  
IVANHOE?

I'M OBEYING  
A MENTAL  
COMMAND...  
FROM DR.  
STRANGE!

THEN,  
HE MUST  
FEEL THE  
MOMENT  
IS AT HAND...

"...BUT,  
HEAVEN  
HELP US  
IF HIS  
JUDGE-  
MENT IS  
WRONG!!"

BY THIS CRYSTAL  
OF SATANNISH...

BY THE  
HOARY  
HOGGOTH'S  
RACE...

"...NOW, AFAR, TWO DEMONS VANISH..."

"...REAPPEARING...FACE TO FACE!!"

EACH OF THE EVIL ONES STANDS  
READY TO SMASH OUT...  
TO DESTROY!

THEN, LET  
THEIR ONLY  
TARGETS  
BE...EACH  
OTHER!

IT WORKED!  
THE MYSTIC'S  
SPELL  
SUCCEEDED!



AND SUCH IS THE BLIND,  
TOWERING RAGE OF THE TWO  
FURIOUS FORMS, THAT THEIR  
WONDROUS WEAPONS MEET  
WITH SHATTERING FORCE...

...A FORCE  
WHICH MEN  
CAN SCARCELY  
IMAGINE...  
AND LEGENDS  
HAVE NE'ER  
DESCRIBED!!

THEN...A  
SELF-CONTAINED  
IMPLOSION...  
IMMEASURABLE IN  
ITS INTENSITY, YET  
DIRECTED INWARD,  
UPON THE DEMONIC  
DUO WHO WERE  
ITS UNHOLY  
SOURCE-!

SOON, AS THE WORLD  
DRAWS BREATH  
ONCE MORE...

THEY'RE  
GONE...  
BLOWN TO  
BITS!

NO... NOT  
DESTROYED,  
HAWKEYE!

THEY MERELY  
VANISHED...  
EACH OF THEM  
CANCELING  
OUT THE POWER  
OF THE OTHER!

AY,  
PANTHER...  
LIKE  
SPECTRES  
FROM A  
FLEETING  
DREAM...

...THEY HAVE RETURNED TO THAT NETHER  
WORLD FROM WHENCE  
THEY ESCAPED!

DR. STRANGE  
...OR AT LEAST  
HIS ASTRAL  
BODY!

HOW'D YOU PULL  
THAT STUNT... MAKIN'  
US ALL APPEAR AT  
ONE PLACE... AT  
JUST THE RIGHT  
TIME?

THAT IS  
NOT FOR  
US TO  
KNOW,  
ARCHER...

ALL THAT  
MATTERS  
IS, THE  
DANGER IS  
ENDED!

AY... THE DANGER WHICH WAS UN-  
LEASHED UPON AN UNWARY WORLD.  
BY... THE SONS OF SATANNISH!

'T WAS THEY  
WHO TAMPERED  
WITH COSMIC  
FORCES BEST  
LEFT ALONE...

AND, THANKS  
BE TO OSHTUR,  
ONLY THEY WHO  
WERE THE VICTIMS  
OF THEIR FOLLY!

FIN