



MARVEL
COMICS
GROUP

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THE AVENGERS

APPROVED
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COMICS
CODE
AUTHORITY

"SUDDENLY...
THE
SUB-MARINER!"



THE MIGHTY AVENGERS!

"SUDDENLY... THE SUB-MARINER!"

IN THE AFTERMATH OF THEIR LIFE-AND-DEATH STRUGGLE WITH THE MAD THINKER'S TRIUMVIRATE OF TERROR, THE VICTORIOUS AVENGERS TURN THEIR ATTENTION TO THE SOMEWHAT MORE PLEBEIAN PASTIME KNOWN AS... **OPERATION CLEAN-UP!**

SHEESH! THIS LAB LOOKS LIKE SOMEBODY REALLY **PEARLED** OUR HARBOR!

IF THAT'S WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YA WIN A FIGHT, I SURE HOPE WE NEVER LOSE ONE!

TONY STARK HAD BETTER BE IN A GOOD MOOD WHEN HE GETS THE **BILL** FOR ALL THE DAMAGE!

I'LL BET THAT PLAYBOY GENIUS IS EVEN DREAMY WHEN HE'S **FURIOUS!**

IS THERE ANYTHING **AMISS**, FAIR WANDA? THY CHEEK SEEMS **PALE** AND **WAN!**

I-- I'LL BE ALL RIGHT IN A **MOMENT**, HERCULES!

ARE YOU **CERTAIN**, MY SISTER?

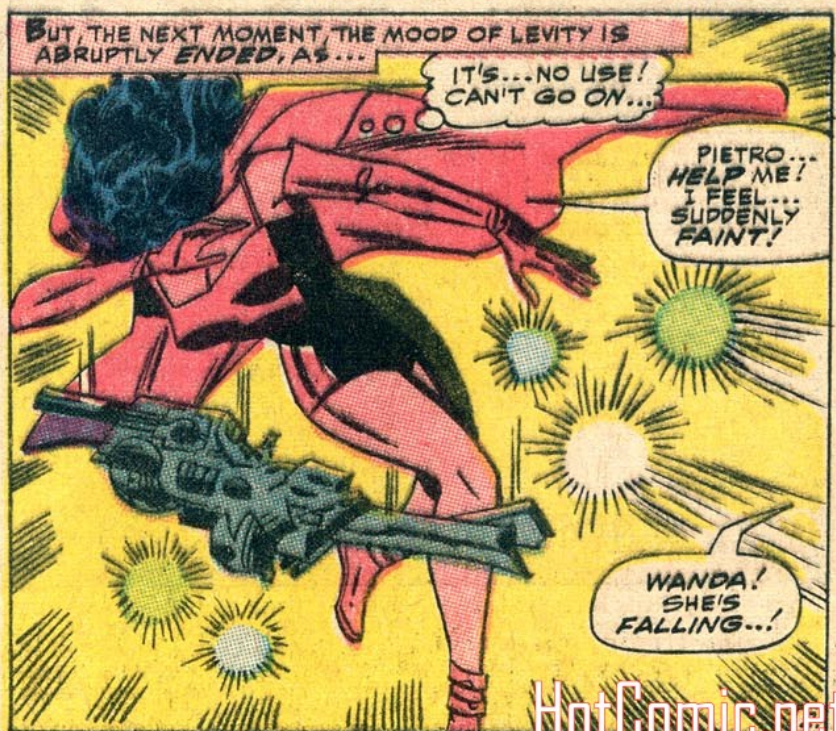
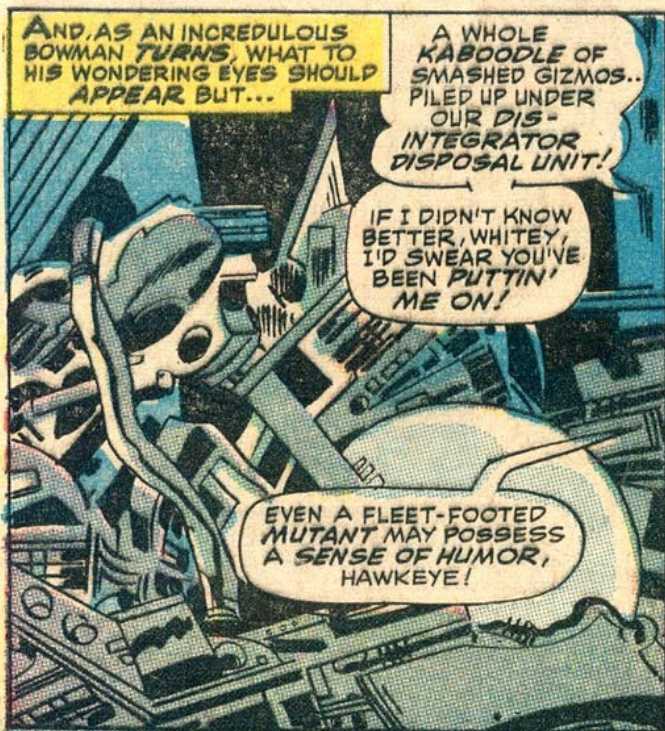
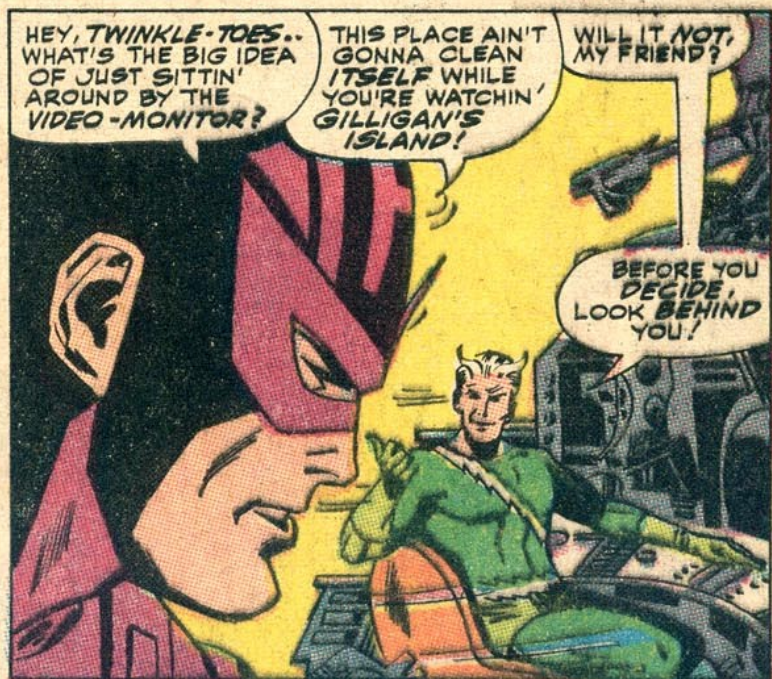
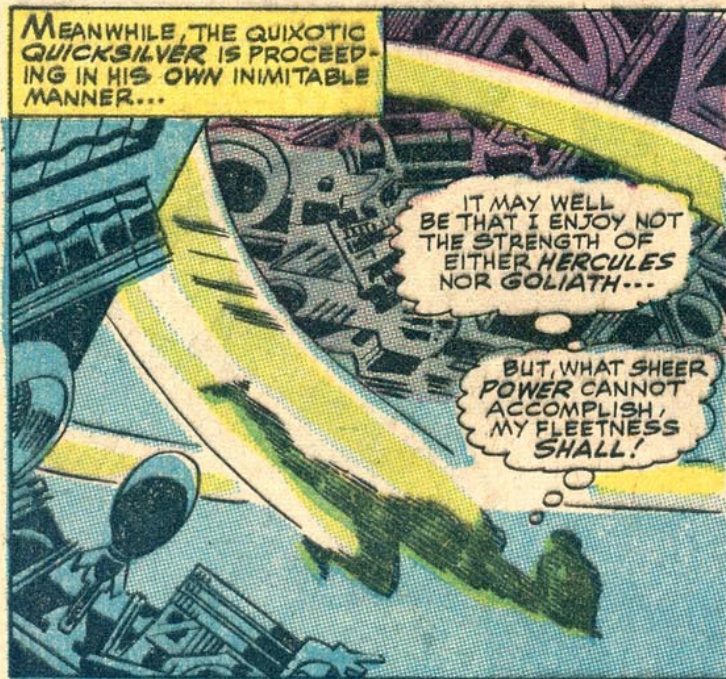
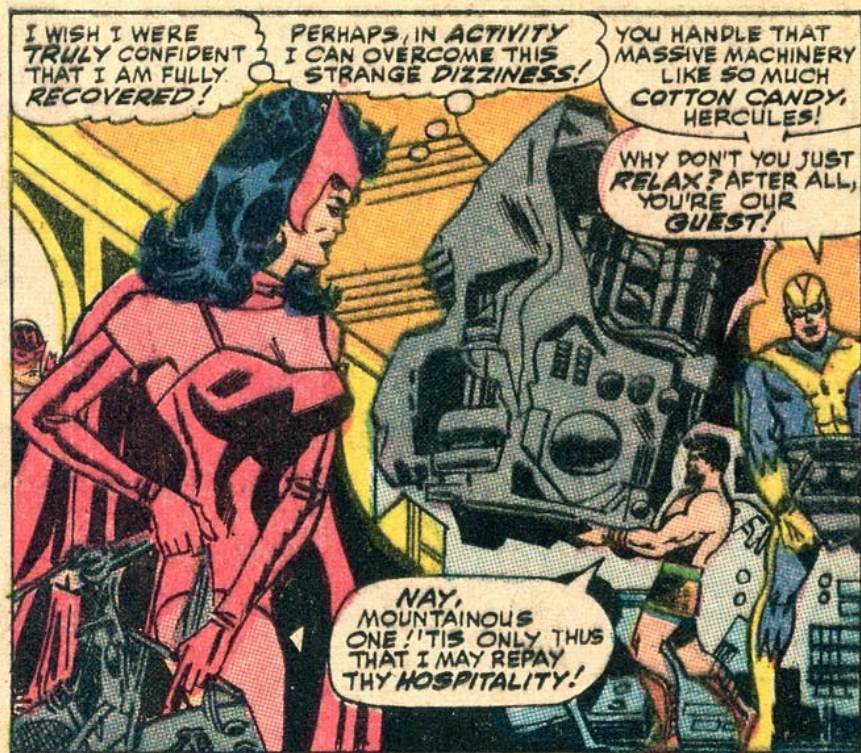
OF COURSE! YOU WORRY TOO MUCH ABOUT ME, **PIETRO!**

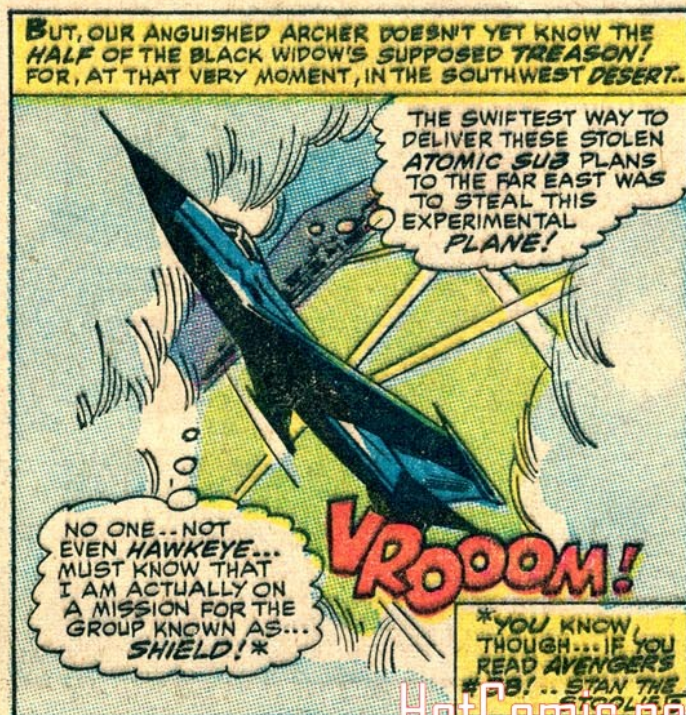
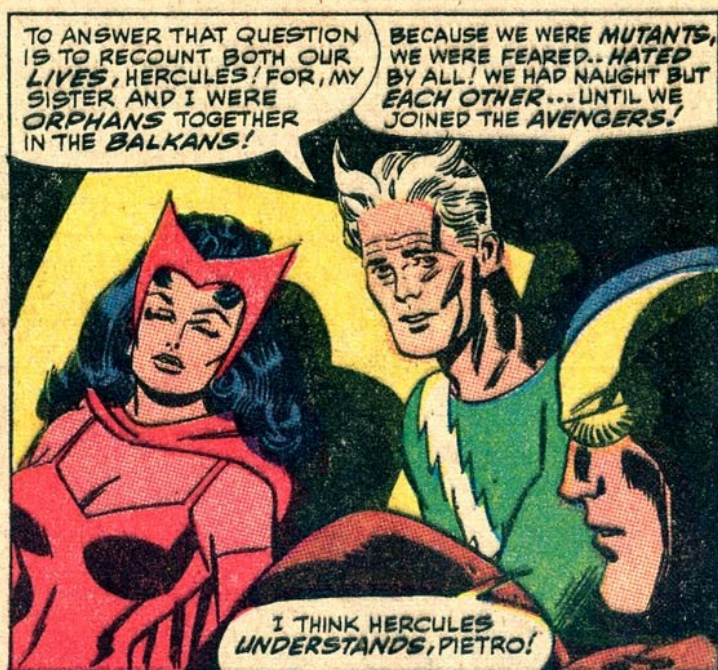
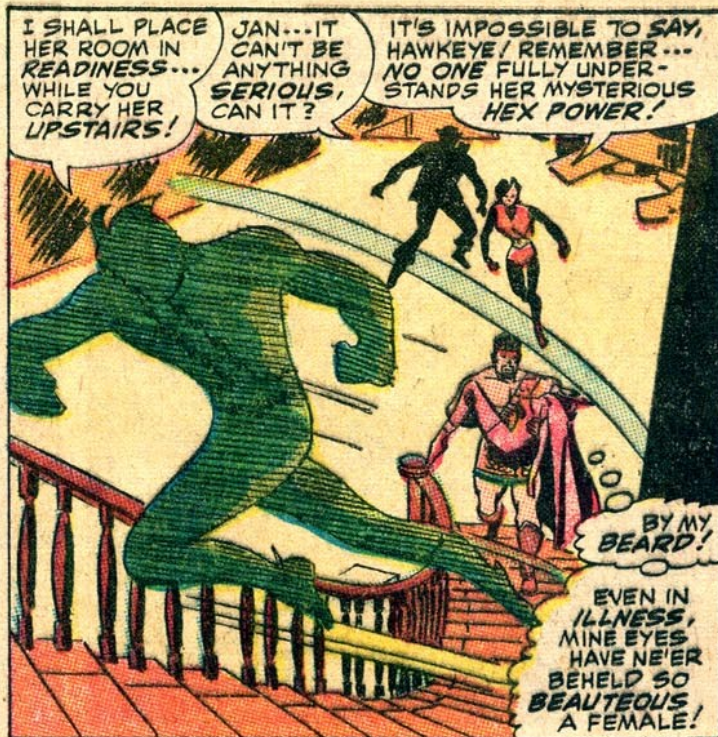
SELDOM HAS SUCH A CATAPHONIC CONFLICT BEEN SO CLAMOROUSLY CRAVED! AND, **SELDOM** HAS EVEN MAGNITUQUENT **MARVEL** SO COGENTLY AND CREATIVELY COMPLIED! 'NUFF SAID!

THUS, LET THE DYNAMIC DEVELOPMENTS **COMMENCE...!**

STAN LEE
PONTIFICALLY PRESENTS
AND PRESIDES OVER...
A
**ROY THOMAS-
DON HECK**
MAJESTIC MARITIME
MASTERWORK!
INKED IN SUB-OCEANIC
SPLENDOR BY:
GEORGE BELL
LETTERED IN A BRIM-
FUL BUBBLE-BATH BY:
SAM ROSEN

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MEANWHILE, AT THE SPRAWLING MILITARY COMPLEX BELOW...

GENERAL ROSS...

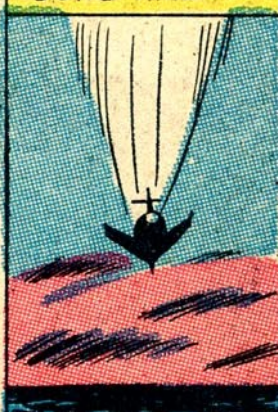
THE EXPERIMENTAL X-76 VERTI-JET WAS JUST STOLEN, SIR... BY THE BLACK WIDOW!

EH? WHAT WAS THAT FEMALE TURNCOAT DOING ON MY BASE?

DON'T I HAVE ENOUGH BLASTED TROUBLE JUST TRYING TO TRACK DOWN THE HULK?

THE TWO OF THEM MUST BE IN CAHOOTS! THAT'S THE ONLY POSSIBLE ANSWER!

BUT, THUNDERBOLT ROSS IS DESTINED NOT TO REALIZE THE ERROR OF HIS ASSUMPTION FOR SOME TIME...



FOR, WITHIN A HALF HOUR, THE SUPERSONIC CRAFT IS ROCKETING ABOVE THE CALM PACIFIC TOWARDS THE FAR EAST... AND A STRANGE, UNFORESEEABLE DESTINY..!

AS, BACK IN AVENGERS HQ, AN UNHAPPY HAWKEYE CONCLUDES HIS SAD REVERIE...

NO MATTER WHERE NATASHA'S GONE... OR WHAT SHE'S DONE... SOMEDAY, SOMEHOW, I'LL FIND HER!

AND, WHEN I DO, NOTHING WILL EVER PART US AGAIN... NOTHING!

YET, WHILE THE THOUGHTS OF EACH COMBAT-WEARY AVENGER DWELLS ON HIS OWN PERSONAL PROBLEMS, WE MUST AVERT OUR ADVENTURE-SEEKING EYES TO THE SUB-OCEANIC REALM OF LEGENDARY ATLANTIS...

...WHERE, AMIDST A COLOSSAL AMPHITHEATRE FILLED WITH HIS THRONGING SUBJECTS, PRINCE NAMOR THE FIRST... HE WHOM THE SURFACESMEN CALL THE DREAD SUB-MARINER... CONCLUDES A TOURNAMENT BOUT WITH HIS MOST SKILLED GLADIATORS...

BY OUR CITY'S RINGING GATES! CAN NOTHING CONQUER OUR INVINCIBLE MONARCH?

THREE OF US BESIEGED HIM... IN FULL BATTLE ARRAY! EVEN SO, HE HAS TOTALLY DEFEATED US!

THUS IT MUST BE... IF I AM TO REMAIN THE TRUE AND RIGHTFUL SOVEREIGN OF FAIR ATLANTIS!

FOR, IS IT NOT ETERNALLY WRITTEN...
IMPERIUS REX!

THE FOLLOWING MOMENT, AN UNDERSEA TRUMPET RINGS OUT, AND...

LET THE GAMES CEASE... THAT THE FIRST ELDER OF ATLANTIS MAY GIVE UTTERANCE!

FOR, WHEN LORD VASHTI SPEAKS... THE SUB-MARINER IS TURNED TO HEAR!

I DESIRE A WORD IN PRIVATE, SIRE!

DONE! WE SHALL RETIRE TO THE PALACE ROYAL!

SCANT MINUTES LATER, IN NAMOR'S THRONE ROOM...

SO...YON APPROACHING SUBMARINE IS THE CAUSE OF YOUR CONCERN, VASHTI!

AYE, MAJESTY! YOUR COMMAND HAS EVER BEEN TO INFORM YOU OF SUCH INTRUDERS!

YOU HAVE SERVED WISELY, AS ALWAYS!

YET, WE KNOW NOT THE SURFACE-MEN'S PURPOSE.. OR WHETHER THEY ARE AWARE THAT ATLANTIS LIES IN THEIR PATH!

WAIT, MY PRINCE! AN OPENING APPEARS IN THE FORE-FRONT OF THE VESSEL!

THAT CAN ONLY MEAN... AN ACCURSED TORPEDO!

NEXT, EVEN AS THE SUB-MARINER SPEAKS, HIS DIRE PROPHECY IS FULFILLED... AS A SINISTER CYLINDRICAL FORM PARTS FORTH...

WHOOOSH!

...AND, MOVING AS SWIFTLY AS THE EYE CAN FOLLOW, DEMOLISHES A SECTION OF CORAL REEF THAT BARS ITS WATERY ADVANCE!

PHOOM!

NAMOR HAS SEEN ENOUGH!

WHAT DO YOU INTEND TO DO, MY LORD?

I SHALL DO WHAT I MUST.. TO TURN BACK THE AIR-BREATHING INVADERS!

IMPERIUS REX!

THEN, WITHOUT AN INSTANT'S HESITATION... WITHOUT A PASSING THOUGHT FOR ANY DANGERS WHICH MAY AWAIT HIM...THE REGAL PRINCE OF THE REALM SPEEDS TOWARDS THE HATED CRAFT, JUST AS...

THEY HAVE RELEASED YET ANOTHER MISSILE AT YON CORAL REEF!

I MUST INTERCEPT IT...THAT THEY MAY KNOW THE POWER OF HE WHOM THEY OPPOSE!



THUS, AS THE HURLING TORPEDO
NEARS ITS TARGET...

UHHNN! THIS
PROJECTILE IS
FAR MIGHTIER
THAN ANY I
DESTROYED
IN DECADES
PAST!

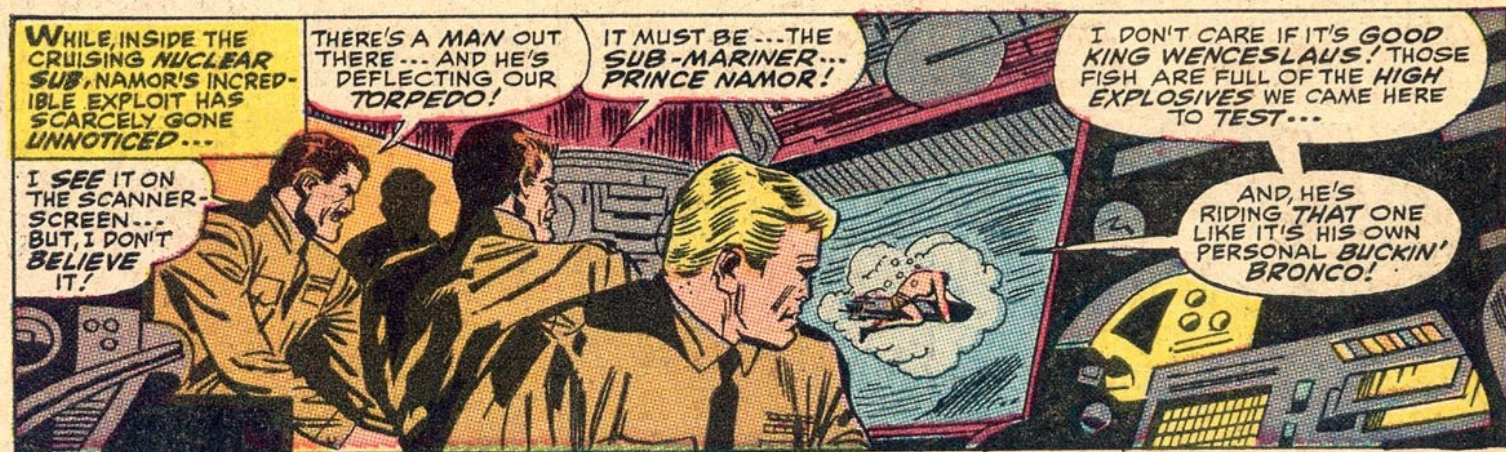
IN TRUTH, IT
SEEMS ALMOST
TO POSSESS A
MIND OF ITS
OWN!



BUT, NO MERE WEAPON
OF WROUGHT METAL
MAY PREVAIL AGAINST A
PRINCE OF THE BLOOD!

AH...IT
YIELDS!

FOR, WHATEVER
MANKIND CAN
CREATE... THE
SUB-MARINER
CAN MASTER!



WHILE, INSIDE THE
CRUISING NUCLEAR
SUB, NAMOR'S INCRED-
IBLE EXPLOIT HAS
SCARCELY GONE
UNNOTICED...

I SEE IT ON
THE SCANNER-
SCREEN...
BUT, I DON'T
BELIEVE
IT!

THERE'S A MAN OUT
THERE... AND HE'S
DEFLECTING OUR
TORPEDO!

IT MUST BE...THE
SUB-MARINER...
PRINCE NAMOR!

I DON'T CARE IF IT'S GOOD
KING WENCESLAUS! THOSE
FISH ARE FULL OF THE HIGH
EXPLOSIVES WE CAME HERE
TO TEST...

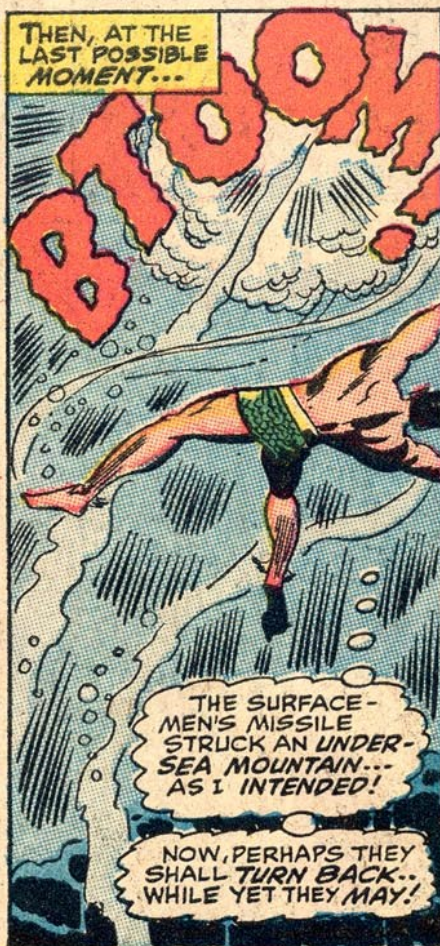
AND, HE'S
RIDING THAT ONE
LIKE IT'S HIS OWN
PERSONAL BUCKIN'
BRONCO!



NOW WHAT'S THAT POINTY-FARED
FREAK UP TO? I... GREAT
THUNDER!

HE'S TURNED
THE TORPEDO
AROUND! IT'S
HEADING STRAIGHT
FOR US!

IF IT HITS
...WE HAVEN'T
GOT A
PRAYER!!



THEN, AT THE
LAST POSSIBLE
MOMENT...

THE SURFACE-
MEN'S MISSILE
STRUCK AN UNDER-
SEA MOUNTAIN...
AS I INTENDED!

NOW, PERHAPS THEY
SHALL TURN BACK...
WHILE YET THEY MAY!



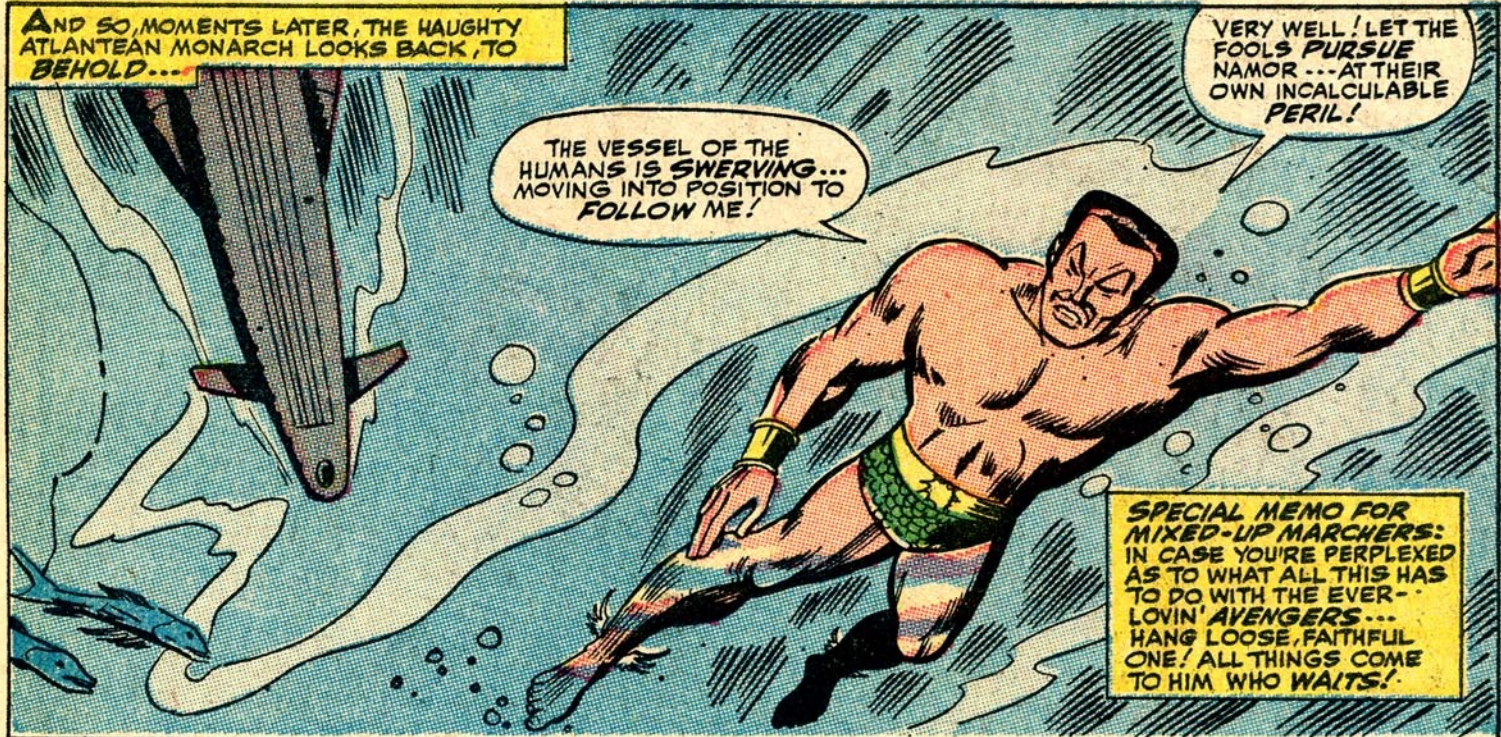
HOWEVER, AT THE SELFSAME INSTANT...
THAT TEARS IT! ALL ENGINES ON
FULL SPEED! WE'RE GOING AFTER
THE SUB-MARINER!

BUT, COMMANDER...HE
MUST HAVE MEANT
FOR THAT FISH TO MISS
US!

I'M AWARE
OF THAT,
MISTER...NOW
GET THOSE
ENGINES
HUMMING!

AND, GET A
SCUBA TEAM
READY TO MOVE
OUT! I WANT THAT
SEA-GOING TIN GOD...BUT
I WANT HIM ALIVE!

AND SO, MOMENTS LATER, THE HAUGHTY ATLANTEAN MONARCH LOOKS BACK, TO BEHOLD...



THE VESSEL OF THE HUMANS IS **SWERVING**... MOVING INTO POSITION TO FOLLOW ME!

VERY WELL! LET THE FOOLS PURSUE NAMOR... AT THEIR OWN INCALCULABLE PERIL!

SPECIAL MEMO FOR MIXED-UP MARCHERS: IN CASE YOU'RE PERPLEXED AS TO WHAT ALL THIS HAS TO DO WITH THE EVER-LOVIN' AVENGERS... HANG LOOSE, FAITHFUL ONE! ALL THINGS COME TO HIM WHO WAITS!

LOOK! OUR PREY MUST HAVE PANICKED! HE'S SWIMMING INTO THAT UNDERSEA CANYON!



HE'LL BE CORNERED IN THERE...AND WE CAN CAPTURE HIM AT OUR LEISURE!

FULL SPEED AHEAD!

THEN, EVEN AS THE COMMANDER BARKS HIS ORDERS...



SIR... WE'RE RUNNING STRAIGHT INTO A PATCH OF THICK SEAWEED!

THIS IS A NUCLEAR SUB WE'RE IN, MISTER... NOT SOME VENETIAN GONDOLA!

IT'LL PLOW THROUGH THAT SEAWEED LIKE A KNIFE THROUGH BUTTER!

YET, PRECISELY TWO SECONDS LATER...

THE SUB'S COMING TO A DEAD STOP, SIR!

IT'S NOT POSSIBLE!



WE JUST NEED MORE POWER! GIVE 'ER THE GUN!

NO GO, SIR! THE ENGINE ROOM SAYS WE'RE STUCK!

THAT SEAWEED MUST BE A VARIETY NOBODY'S EVER SEEN BEFORE!

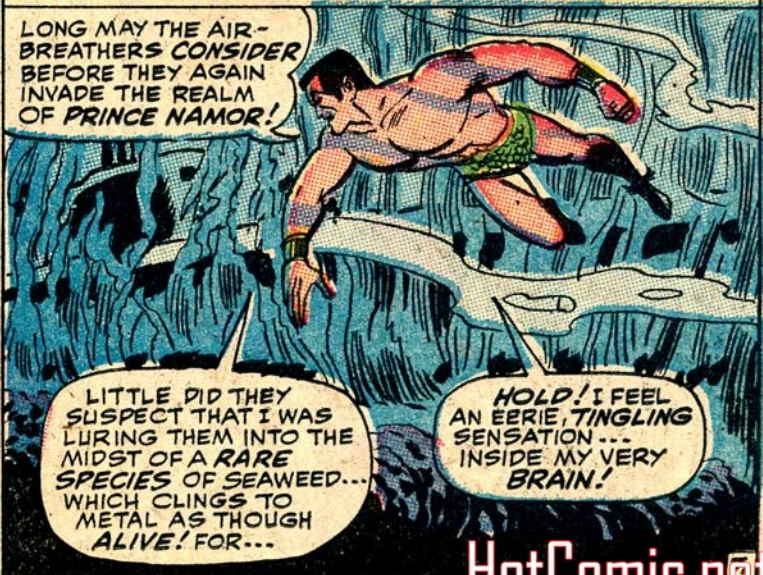
IT WAS A TRAP! THAT DEVIL WANTED US TO FOLLOW HIM!



BUT... WHY DID HE ATTACK US IN THE FIRST PLACE? WE PRESENTED NO MENACE TO HIM!

OUTSIDE THE IMMOBILIZED CRAFT, HOWEVER, THE SUB-MARINER VIEWS THINGS SOMEWHAT DIFFERENTLY...

LONG MAY THE AIR-BREATHERS CONSIDER BEFORE THEY AGAIN INVADE THE REALM OF PRINCE NAMOR!



LITTLE DID THEY SUSPECT THAT I WAS LURING THEM INTO THE MIDST OF A RARE SPECIES OF SEAWEED... WHICH CLINGS TO METAL AS THOUGH ALIVE! FOR...

HOLD! I FEEL AN EERIE, TINGLING SENSATION... INSIDE MY VERY BRAIN!

I'VE CONTACTED OUR CARIBBEAN BASE, COMMANDER. SHALL I FILL THEM IN ON THE DETAILS?

JUST TELL THEM THE SUB IS STUCK... LORD KNOWS, AND, OUR DIVERS'LL HAVE TO HACK US LOOSE! THAT'S TRUE ENOUGH... SIR!

I JUST HOPE NAMOR LETS US FREE THE SHIP!

BUT, UNKNOWN FOR THE MOMENT TO THE ENSNARED SAILORS, THEIR CAPTOR HAS ALREADY DETERMINED UPON AN INFINITELY MORE DARING COURSE OF ACTION...

MY HYBRID SENSES DETECT A MESSAGE--WHICH THE HUMANS ARE RELAYING TO THEIR PLACE OF ORIGIN!

WHENCE CAME ONE SUCH VESSEL...THERE MAY BE OTHERS!

THUS, I SHALL FOLLOW THE RADIO BEAMS TO THEIR DESTINATION... AND DESTROY ALL SUCH CRAFT THERE...

...EVEN IF THEY BE AS NUMEROUS AS GRAINS ON THE SANDY OCEAN FLOOR!

AND NOW, IT'S FINALLY TIME TO RETURN TO AVENGERS HQ...AND A DECIDEDLY PUZZLED GROUP OF SUPER-HEROES...

CAP...IN LEAGUE WITH THE RED SKULL! IT'S BEYOND BELIEF!

YET, WE SAW THEM TO-GETHER ON TELEVISION...

...WHILE RED SKULL'S LEVITATION RAY HELD THE ENTIRE CITY POISED ABOVE CERTAIN DOOM!*

*IF THIS EXCHANGE CONFUSES YOU, IT'S 'CAUSE YOU HAVEN'T READ SUSPENSE #90 YET! FOR SHAME, FRANTIC ONE! ...CENSORIOUS STAN.

TELEVISION OR NO... I'M BETTING THAT CAP'S STILL ON OUR SIDE! I...

THOSE FLASHING LIGHTS! WHAT DO THEY PORTEND?



THEY MEAN...AN AVENGER IS CALLING US!

AND, SINCE WE'RE ALL HERE, IT CAN ONLY BE... STEVE ROGERS!

MOMENTS LATER, IN THE COMMUNICATIONS LAB...

IT IS CAP! BUT, THERE'S SO MUCH STATIC...!

CAPTAIN AM... GRAWWK! ...ING AVENGERS! CAPT... GRAWWK...

TUNE 'ER IN FAST, WASPIE! THAT'S MY BUDDY, TALKIN'... AND, HE MIGHT NEED HELP!

SHE'S DOING HER BEST, HAWKEYE! KEEP TRYING, HONEY!

I...I AM HANK, BUT...

WAIT! AN IMAGE IS FORMING...

YAHOO! IT'S CAP... IN COMPATIBLE RED, WHITE, AND BLUE!

C'MON, PAL...LEMME HEAR IT! SAY YOU HAVEN'T REALLY TEAMED UP WITH THAT CRIMSON-DOMED CREEP!

YOU KNOW IT, PARTNER! BUT...NO TIME TO GO INTO THAT NOW! YOU'LL JUST HAVE TO TRUST ME FOR THE TIME BEING!

I MANAGED TO SNEAK AWAY JUST LONG ENOUGH TO WARN YOU ABOUT... THE COSMIC CUBE!

THE COSMIC CUBE?? WHAT'S THAT?

CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE

CAN'T STOP TO EXPLAIN! BUT, WHOEVER POSSESSES IT... HAS THE POWER TO CONQUER THE UNIVERSE!*

YOU'LL FIND ITS APPROXIMATE LOCATION ON FILE IN MY QUARTERS! NOW, OVER... AND OUT!

HE'S SIGNED OFF!

THE RED SKULL MUST'A SLITHERED BACK IN!

CAP CAN HANDLE HIMSELF! AND, IF HE WANTS US TO SCOUT UP THAT CUBE GIZMO, THAT'S GOOD ENOUGH FOR ME!

*AS OL' RED SKULL ALMOST DID IN *SUSPENSE #80-81!* -- SENTIMENTAL SMILEY.

JUST LEMME GRAB A FISTFUL OF FRESH ARROWS, AND I'LL BE READY TO ROLL!

HEY... WHAT'RE YOU TWO STARIN' AT?

I FOR ONE, WAS JUST RECALLING HOW YOU USED TO BE CAP'S SELF-APPOINTED GADFLY!

NOW, YOU ACT LIKE A CHARTER MEMBER OF HIS FAN CLUB!

LET'S JUST SAY MY EYESIGHT'S IMPROVED, BIG MAN!

I'D BETTER GET A SUPPLY OF WASP'S STINGS!

AND, A FEW MINUTES LATER...

WANDA MERELY NEEDS A BIT OF REST! I SHALL GO WITH YOU, IF YOU WISH!

NAW... STAY HERE AND KEEP AN EYE ON YOUR SPELL-SLINGIN' SIS, SPEEDY!

WE'RE JUST GOIN' ON A SCAVENGER HUNT... NOT TO A FREE-FOR-ALL!

HOLD, MORTAL... HAST THOU SPACE FOR HERCULES TO ACCOMPANY THEE?

THOUGHT YOU'D NEVER ASK, MUSCLES!

C'MON ALONG! WHO KNOWS... WE MIGHT NEED A COUPLE'A MOUNTAINS DEMOLISHED!

THEN, SECONDS AFTERWARD, THE AVENGERS' ROCKETING AERO-CAR FLASHES **SOUTHWARD**...

ACCORDING TO CAP, THE COSMIC CUBE WAS LOST IN THE DRINK NEAR A SMALL CARIBBEAN ISLAND!

LET'S FIND IT FAST! OL' HAWK-EYE'S GOT SOME BUSINESS TO ATTEND TO WHEN WE GET BACK!

NAMELY, I'M GONNA START FIGURIN' OUT HOW TO LOCATE NATASHA... AND GO AFTER HER!

BUT, UNKNOWN TO THE MERCURIAL ARCHER, EVENTS IN THAT PARTICULAR CORNER OF OUR TROUBLED WORLD ARE ABOUT TO COMPLICATE MATTERS A BIT... FOR, AT A NAVAL BASE ON THE ISLAND OF PUERTO NUEVO...

STAND ASIDE, LACKEY, THAT I MAY CONFRONT YOUR LEADER! THE SUB-MARINER COMMANDS!

IMPERIUS REX!

I DIDN'T THINK YOU WERE FROM THE GOOD SHIP LOLLIPOP! WE'VE GOT STANDING ORDERS TO RESIST YOU, FISH-FACE!

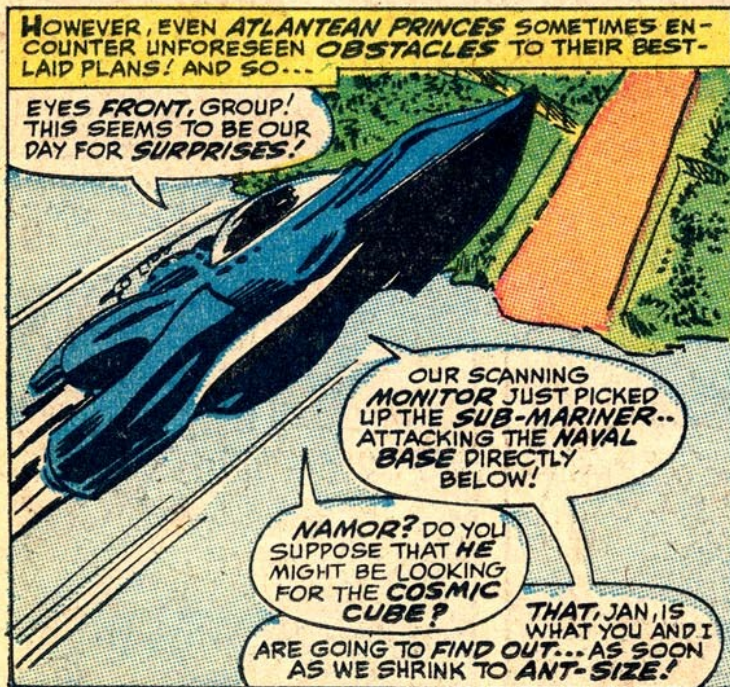
NOW, G'WAN BACK WHERE YOU CAME FROM... BEFORE I HAFTA MAKE YOU LOOK LIKE WATER-LOGGED SWISS CHEESE!

FOOL! NO MAN INSULTS NAMOR!

OKAY, I WARNED YOU, PAL! IT'S YOUR FUNERAL!

WHAT IN...? THE BULLETS DON'T EVEN MAKE 'IM BLINK!

PAKKA POW!







HOWEVER, THE IMPETUOUS HAWKEYE HAS SADLY UNDERESTIMATED THE SOVEREIGN OF THE DEEP, FOR...

IT TOOK BUT THE TOUCH OF THE LIFE-GIVING SEA... TO RESTORE MY MATCHLESS POWER!

SPLUNCH!

SUB-MARINER! BUT, IT CAN'T BE...! AAAARR...!

THOOM!

I KNOW NOT WHO YOU ARE, ARCHER... BUT, YOU SHALL PAY FOR YOUR ATTACK--AND PAY DEARLY!



HOLD, MORTAL! I SAY THEE... NAY!

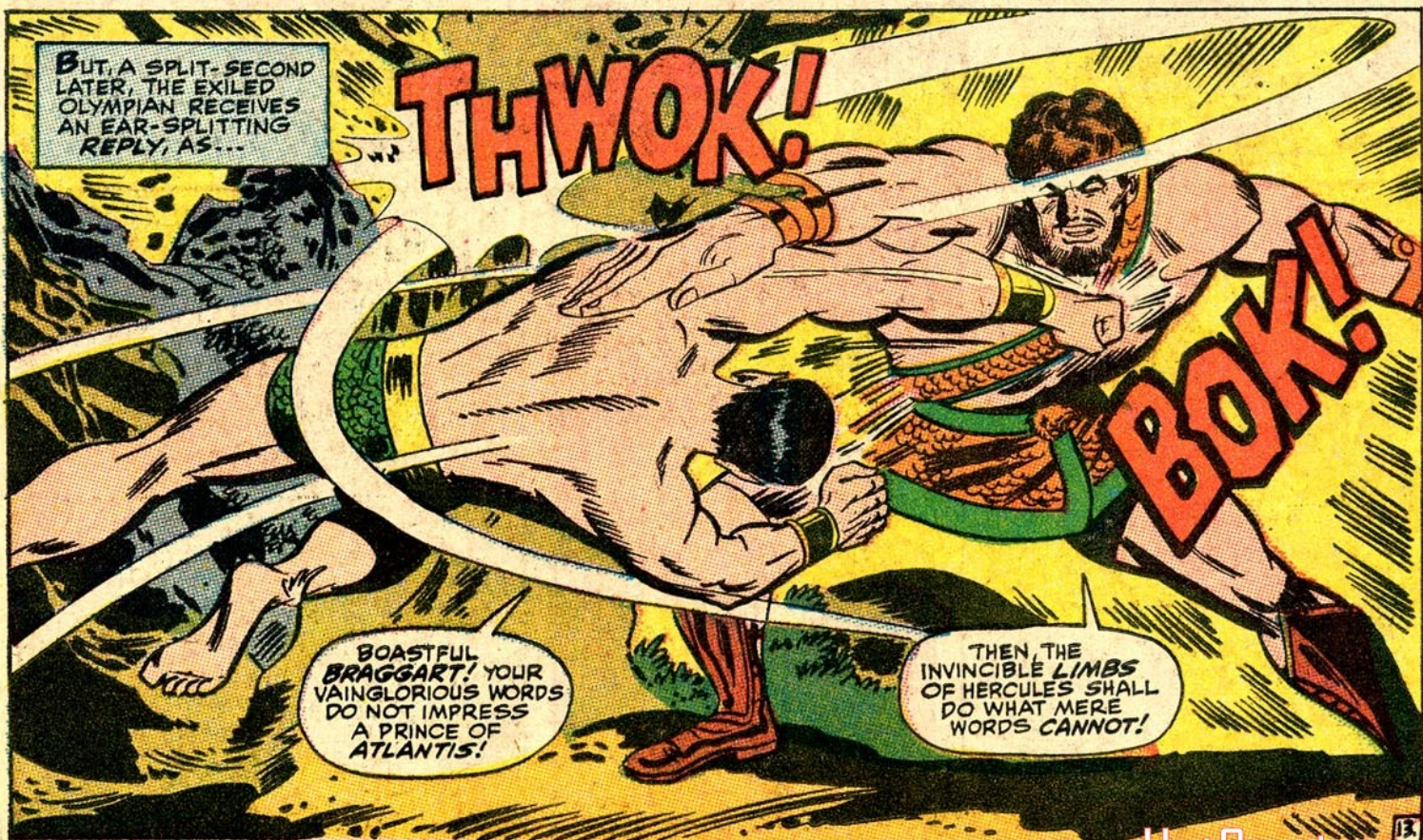
KRAK!

BY THE WREATHED HORN OF TRITON! WHAT BEING DARES HURL YON TREE AT NAMOR?

I DARE, DENIZEN OF THE WINE-DARK DEPTHS!

THOSE WHOM THOU HAST HUMBLD ARE MY HONORED FRIENDS! WHO WOULD HARM THEM... MUST FIRST DEAL WITH HERCULES!

WELL, WHAT SAY YOU? HATH THINE ARDENT ANGER COOLED?



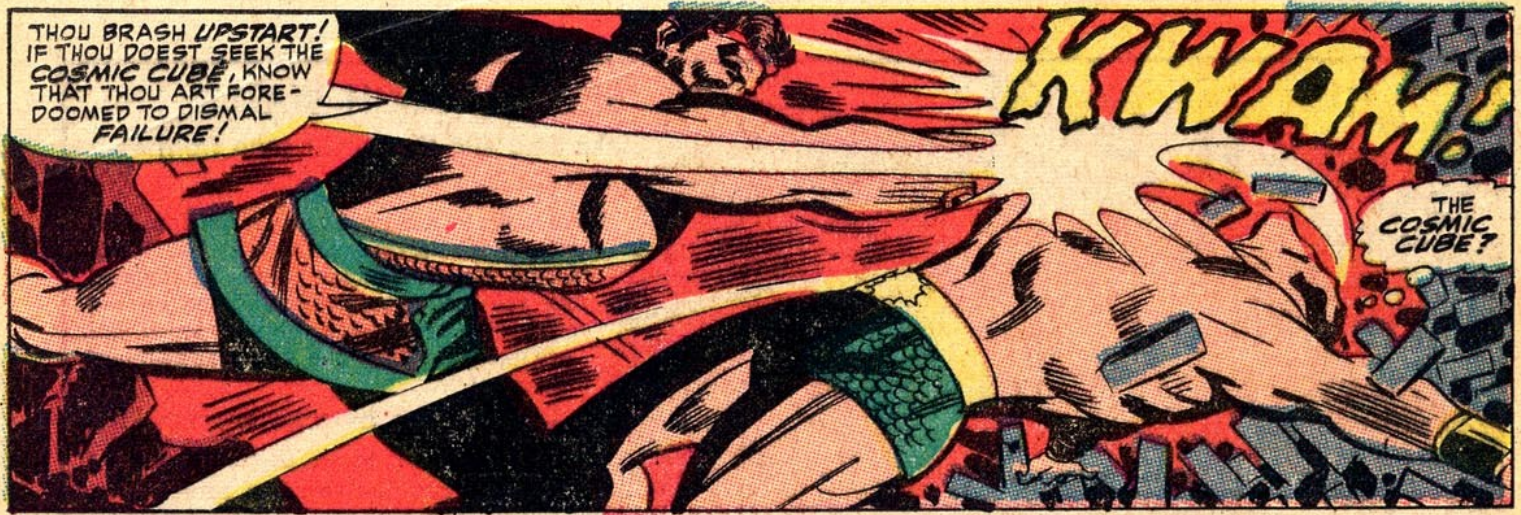
BUT, A SPLIT-SECOND LATER, THE EXILED OLYMPIAN RECEIVES AN EAR-SPLITTING REPLY, AS...

THWOK!

BOK!

BOASTFUL BRAGGART! YOUR VAINGLORIOUS WORDS DO NOT IMPRESS A PRINCE OF ATLANTIS!

THEN, THE INVINCIBLE LIMBS OF HERCULES SHALL DO WHAT MERE WORDS CANNOT!



THOU BRASH UPSTART!
IF THOU DOEST SEEK THE
COSMIC CUBE, KNOW
THAT THOU ART FORE-
DOOMED TO DISMAL
FAILURE!

THE
COSMIC
CUBE?



I DO NOT KNOW
WHEREOF THE ONE
CALLED HERCULES
SPEAKS...

YET, IF SUCH A
THING HAS
BROUGHT THE
AVENGERS
HERE, I WOULD
LEARN MORE
OF IT!

BACK, GARGANTUAN
OAF! THE COSMIC
CUBE IS NAMOR'S!

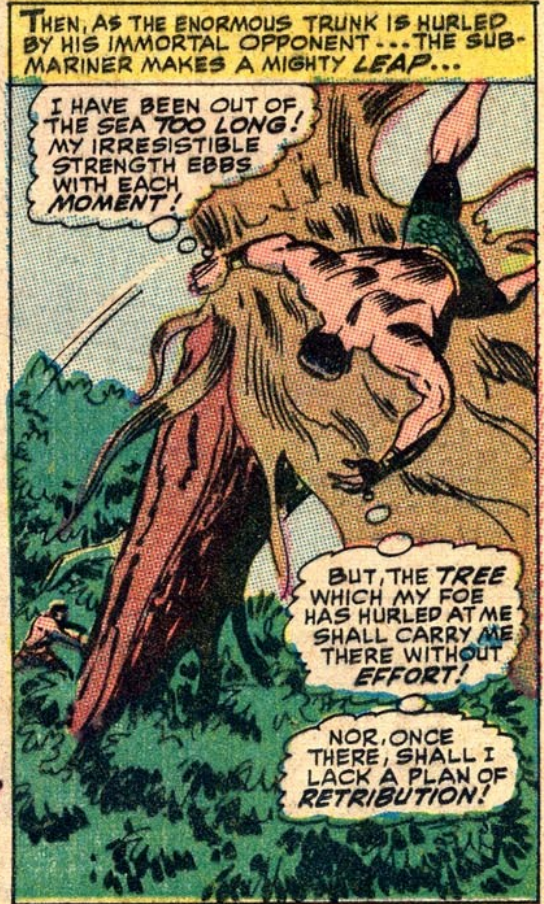
NEVER! NOT WHILE
BREATH BE IN
HERCULES' BODY!



FOR, THAT PRIZE WHICH
THOU DOEST CLAIM
FOR THINE OWN... IS
DESIRED BY THOSE
WHO HAVE BEFRIENDED
THE SON OF ZEUS!

AND, BY
THE
SHIMMERING
SPIRES OF
ETERNAL
OLYMPUS..
THEY SHALL
HAVE IT!

RRRIP!



THEN, AS THE ENORMOUS TRUNK IS HURLED
BY HIS IMMORTAL OPPONENT... THE SUB-
MARINER MAKES A MIGHTY LEAP...

I HAVE BEEN OUT OF
THE SEA TOO LONG!
MY IRRESISTIBLE
STRENGTH EBBS
WITH EACH
MOMENT!

BUT, THE TREE
WHICH MY FOE
HAS HURLED AT ME
SHALL CARRY ME
THERE WITHOUT
EFFORT!

NOR, ONCE
THERE, SHALL I
LACK A PLAN OF
RETRIBUTION!



THE STRANGE-SEEMING
MORTAL HATH DISAPPEARED
BENEATH THE LAPPING
WAVES! AND, 'TWOULD
APPEAR HE HATH NO
MORE HEART FOR
BATTLE!

BUT, IF E'ER HE
DOETH, HERCULES
SHALL GIVE HIM
SATISFACTION!

SPLAKSH!

MY MONEY'S
ON YOU,
WHISKERS!



MEANWHILE, LET'S GET
GOIN'! WE GOTTA FIND
THAT CRUMMY CUBE!

AYE! FOR, THE SUB-MARINER SEEMS
NOT THE PROPER MORTAL TO POSSESS
SUCH POWER AS IT MAY BESTOW!

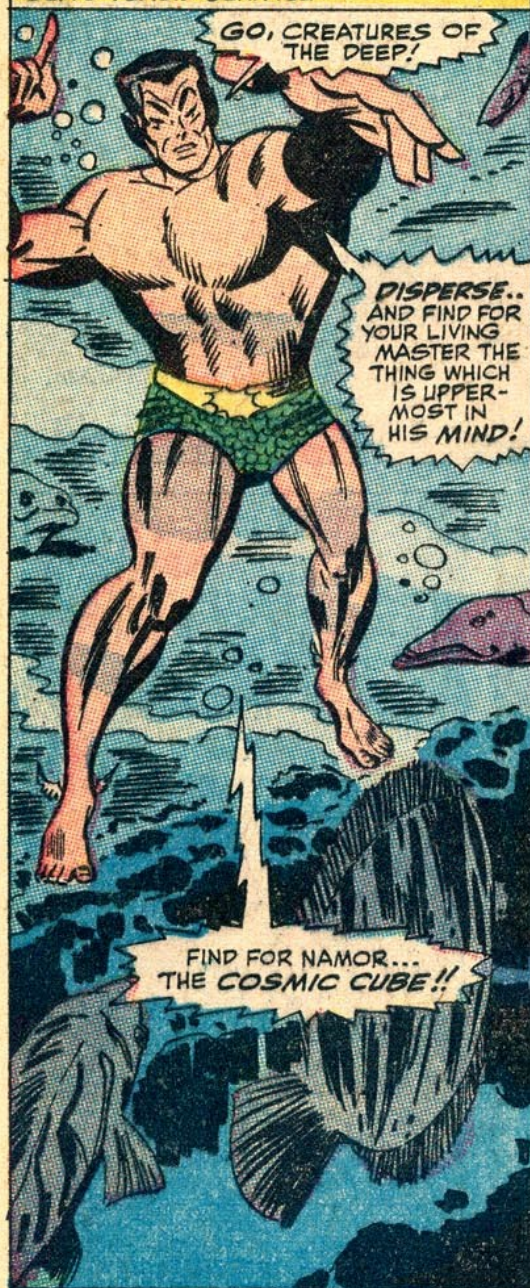
THUS...

HANK'S FUMING..
AND I KNOW WHY!
NAMOR MIGHT'VE
KNOWN NOTHING
ABOUT THE
CUBE...

HOLD!
THE WARRIORS
WHO DWELL IN
THIS PLACE
DO APPROACH..
REJOICING!

...TILL
HERCULES
TOLD HIM!

WHILE, EVEN AS THE WINSOME WASP MUSES, AN OMINOUS **TABLEAU** IS BEING ENACTED MANY FATHOMS BENEATH THE SEA'S PLACID SURFACE...



GO, CREATURES OF THE DEEP!

DISPERSE... AND FIND FOR YOUR LIVING MASTER THE THING WHICH IS UPPER-MOST IN HIS MIND!

FIND FOR NAMOR... THE **COSMIC CUBE**!!

THEN, AS THE IRRESISTIBLE MENTAL COMMANDS OF THE **SUB-MARINER** RADIATE THROUGH THE CLEAR CARIBBEAN WATERS, AN INCREDIBLE, ALMOST UNBELIEVABLE **SEARCH** IS BEGUN...



AND, WITHIN A MATTER OF **MINUTES**... IT IS ENDED!



FOR, SO POWERFUL ARE THE UNEARTHLY EMANATIONS OF THE **COSMIC CUBE**, THAT THEY CAN BE SENSED EVEN THROUGH THE LAYERS OF SHIFTING **SAND** WHICH COVER IT!

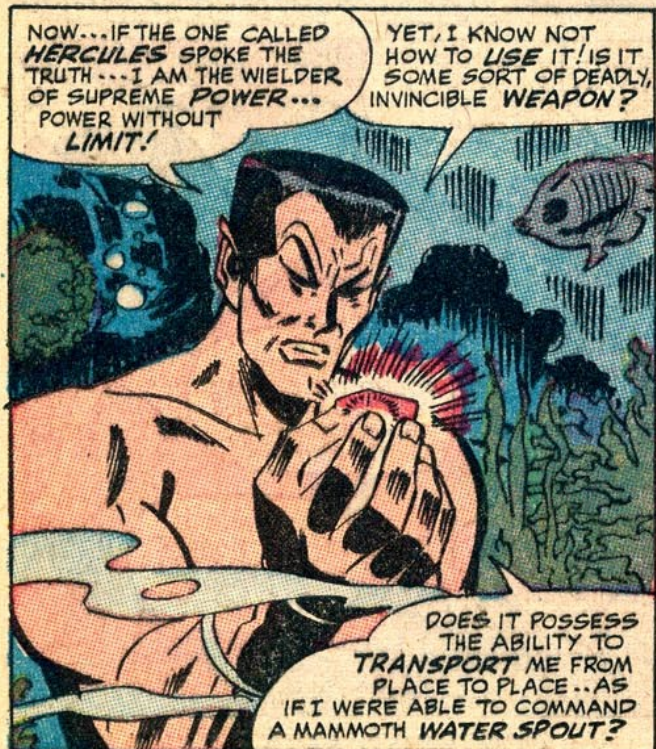
MOMENTS LATER, WHEN THE AMAZING **ATLANTEAN** ARRIVES ON THE SCENE...



THAT GLEAMING OBJECT! IT CAN ONLY BE... THE **COSMIC CUBE**!

IT WAS SUNK BENEATH THIS SOFT **SAND**... WHICH 'TIS CHILD'S PLAY FOR ME TO **PENETRATE**!

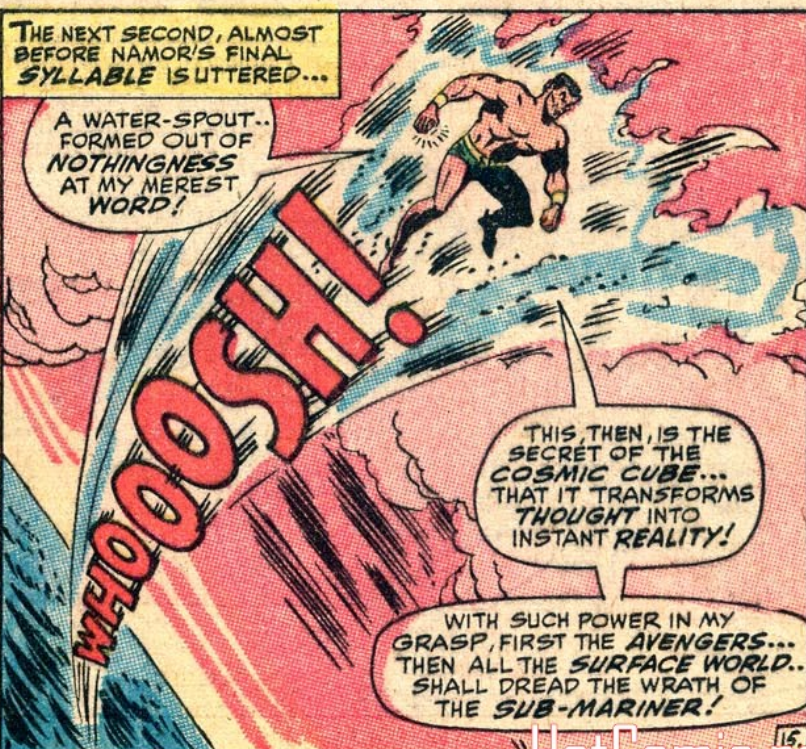
NOW...IF THE ONE CALLED **HERCULES** SPOKE THE TRUTH...I AM THE WIELDER OF SUPREME **POWER**... POWER WITHOUT **LIMIT**!



YET, I KNOW NOT HOW TO **USE** IT! IS IT SOME SORT OF DEADLY, INVINCIBLE **WEAPON**?

DOES IT POSSESS THE ABILITY TO **TRANSPORT** ME FROM PLACE TO PLACE...AS IF I WERE ABLE TO COMMAND A MAMMOTH **WATER SPOUT**?

THE NEXT SECOND, ALMOST BEFORE NAMOR'S FINAL **SYLLABLE** IS UTTERED...



A WATER-SPOUT... FORMED OUT OF **NOTHINGNESS** AT MY MEREST **WORD**!

THIS, THEN, IS THE SECRET OF THE **COSMIC CUBE**... THAT IT TRANSFORMS **THOUGHT** INTO INSTANT **REALITY**!

WITH SUCH POWER IN MY GRASP, FIRST THE **AVENGERS**... THEN ALL THE **SURFACE WORLD**... SHALL DREAD THE WRATH OF THE **SUB-MARINER**!

AND NOW, WHAT ABOUT THE MIGHTY AVENGERS... AND THE MUCH-LIONIZED LION OF OLYMPUS? LET'S DROP IN ON THAT NAVAL BASE, SHALL WE?

YOU'VE DONE US A GREAT SERVICE, GOLIATH! THAT FISH-MAN SEEMED BENT ON DESTROYING OUR SUB-INSTALLATIONS!

ACTUALLY, SIR, WE'RE IN THIS AREA ON ANOTHER MISSION ENTIRELY... BUT, NATURALLY, WE DID WHAT WE COULD!

BESIDES, THANK HERCULES! HE DID MOST OF THE HEAVY FIGHTING AGAINST NAMOR!

YET, I CAN'T HELP REMEMBERING THAT IT WAS ALSO HERCULES WHO BLURTED OUT THAT WE'RE SEARCHING FOR THE COSMIC CUBE!

AND, IF THAT GIZMO'S HALF AS POWERFUL AS CAP SAID IT IS, WE'D BETTER HOPE THE SUB-MARINER DOESN'T BEAT US TO IT!

AT ANY RATE, IF THERE'S EVER ANYTHING I CAN DO TO HELP YOU...

WELL, WE COULD KIND'A USE A BATHY-SPHERE!

YOU'VE GOT IT, HAWK-EYE!

COMMANDER... LOOK! THERE'S AN OBJECT APPROACHING... COMING IN LOW!

WHAT? I TOLD THOSE FLY-BOYS, IF THEY EVER BUZZED THIS BASE AGAIN, I'D...

WAIT A MINUTE! THAT'S NO PLANE... IT'S-- A MAN!!

IT'S THE SUB-MARINER! HE CAME BACK!

WELL, THIS TIME WE'RE READY FOR THAT AMPHIBIOUS MENACE!

CAPTAIN... SOUND THE GENERAL ALARM! I WANT ALL MEN AT THEIR BATTLE STATIONS!

HOLD IT, COMMANDER! THE AVENGERS JUST HANDED NAMOR A DEFEAT!

HE'S PROBABLY LOOKIN' FOR A RE-MATCH!

SO YOU WANT TO HAVE IT OUT WITH HIM, EH? ALL RIGHT, AVENGER... IT'S YOUR SHOW!

THUS, SECONDS LATER, AS THE SPEEDING SUB-MARINER LANDS...

BY NOW, FISH-FACE, YOU OUGHTTA GET THE IDEA YOU'RE NOT EXACTLY GUEST OF HONOR AROUND HERE!

WHY DON'TCHA GO ON HOME AND PLAY WITH YER PET SQUID?

STAND ASIDE, ARCHER! IT IS HERCULES I AM AFTER!

THE FOOLS CANNOT SUSPECT THAT I MENTALLY RE-SHAPED THE CUBE INTO THIS PENDANT AROUND MY NECK... TO LEAVE MY HANDS FREE FOR FIGHTING!

A MOMENT LATER, A SINISTER, INHUMAN BELLOWING IS HEARD... AND, TURNING IN UTTER ASTONISHMENT, THE STARTLED SUPER-HEROES WITNESS A NIGHT-MARISH SIGHT...

BEHOLD, AVENGERS, MY NEWLY-CREATED AMALGA-BEAST... FORMED BY COMBINING THE BODIES OF VARIOUS OF MY FINNY SUBJECTS!

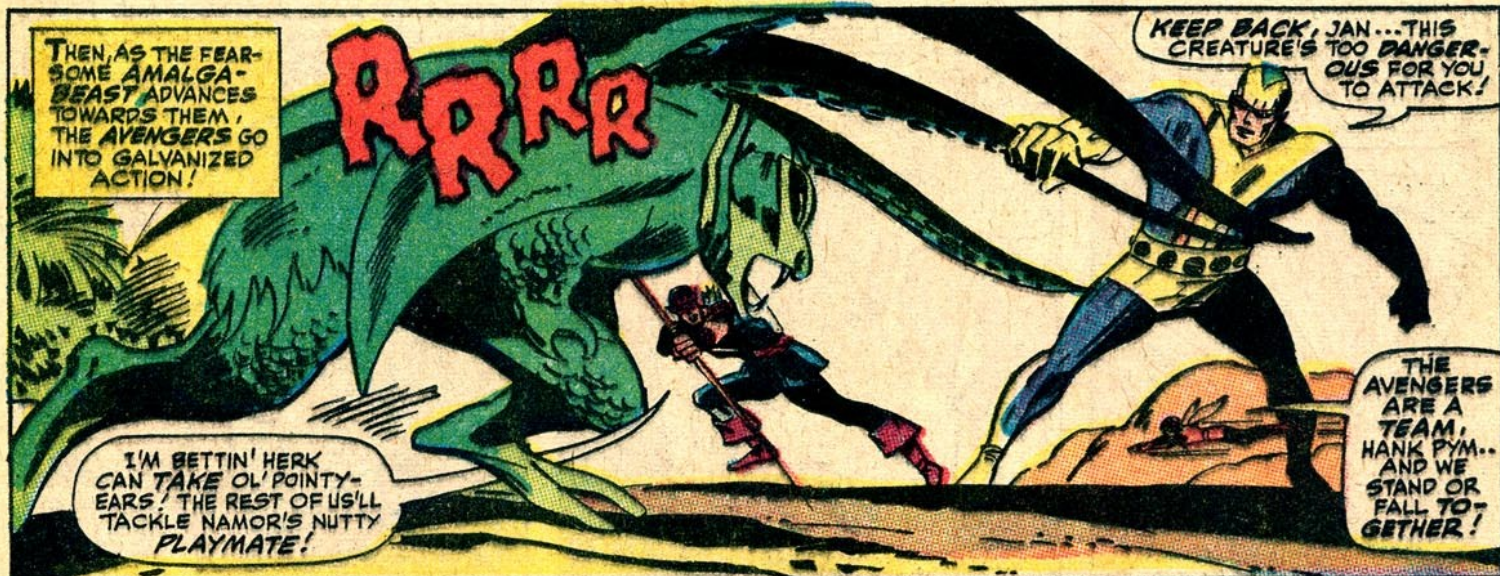
'TIS MY WISH THAT YOU NOT BE BORED... WHILE I PIT MY STRENGTH AGAINST HERCULES!

HOLY COW! DID HE SAY HE CREATED THAT 'WALKIN' MENAGERIE?

SOMEHOW, HE MUST HAVE FOUND THE COSMIC CUBE... AND THIS IS AN EXAMPLE OF ITS POWER!

BUT-- WHERE IS IT? NAMOR HOLDS NO CUBE-SHAPED OBJECT!





THEN, AS THE FEAR-SOME AMALGA-BEAST ADVANCES TOWARDS THEM, THE AVENGERS GO INTO GALVANIZED ACTION!

I'M BETTIN' HERK CAN TAKE OL' POINTY-EARS! THE REST OF US'LL TACKLE NAMOR'S NUTTY PLAYMATE!

KEEP BACK, JAN...THIS CREATURE'S TOO DANGEROUS FOR YOU TO ATTACK!

THE AVENGERS ARE A TEAM, HANK PYM... AND WE STAND OR FALL TOGETHER!



IF THAT MONSTER BEATS THE AVENGERS, IT'LL BE AFTER US NEXT!

PREPARE FOR LAST-DITCH DEFENSE!

AYE AYE, SIR!



MEANWHILE, THE FAR-FAMED PRINCE OF POWER MAKES A LUNGE AT HIS CHALLENGER, ONLY TO FIND...

BY THE POUNDING HOOVES OF PAN-- THE ATLANTIAN MOVES ALMOST AS SWIFTLY AS PIETRO!

POST THOU FEAR TO FACE HERCULES, THOU CRAVEN COWARD?

ZWISSH!



NAMOR FEARS NEITHER MAN NOR IMMORTAL, BOASTFUL ONE!

BUT, I WOULD HAVE SPORT WITH YOU BEFORE THE FINAL THRUST!

UNHHH!



THE OLYMPIAN SEEMS DAZED BY MY ATTACK!

THEN...NOW IS THE MOMENT TO STRIKE!



BUT, IT WOULD APPEAR THAT THE PRINCELY SUB-MARINER HAS GROSSLY UNDER-ESTIMATED HIS OPPONENTS' MIGHT... FOR...

HE GRABBED ME... WHIRLS ME ABOUT AS THOUGH I WERE BUT A STRAW IN A HURRICANE!

FOOL! DIDST THOU SUPPOSE THAT ONE BLOW COULD REDUCE HERCULES TO ABJECT HELP-LESSNESS?

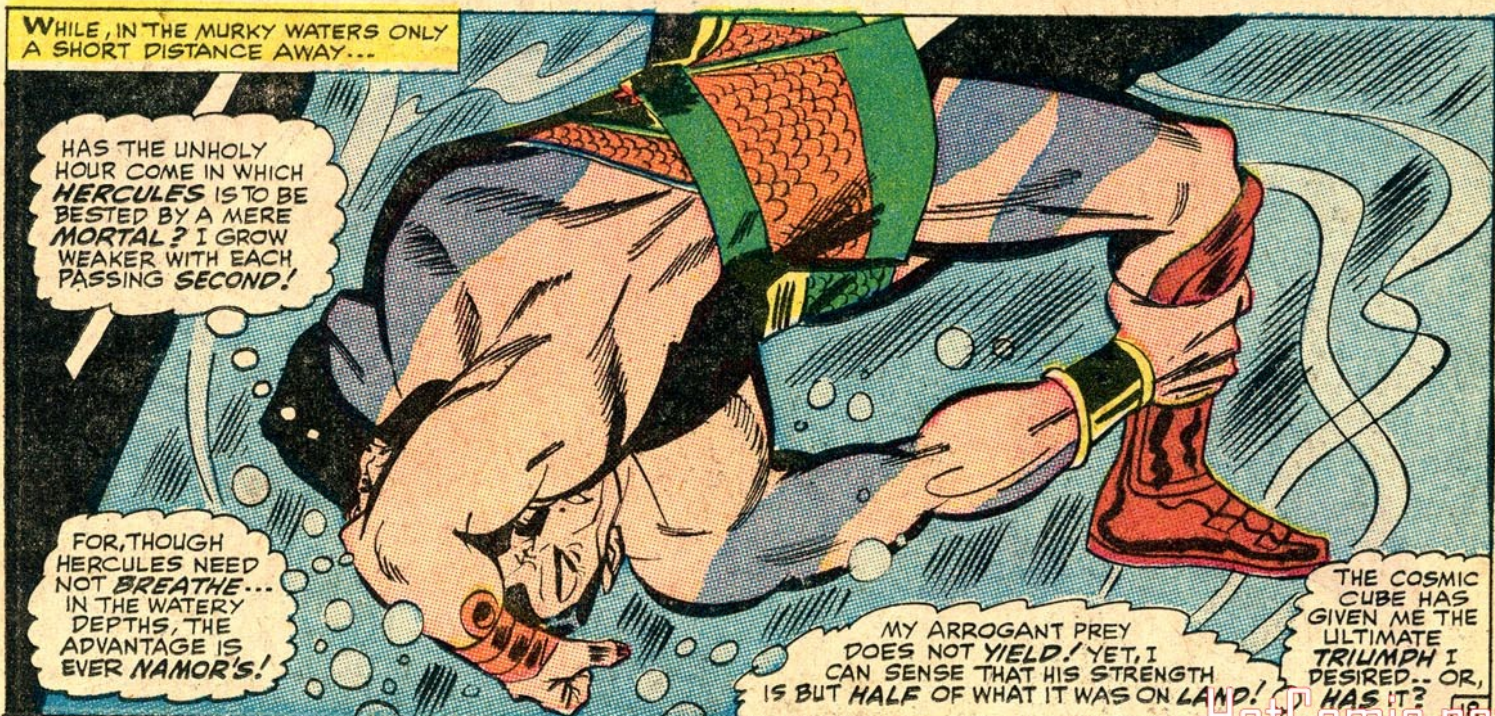
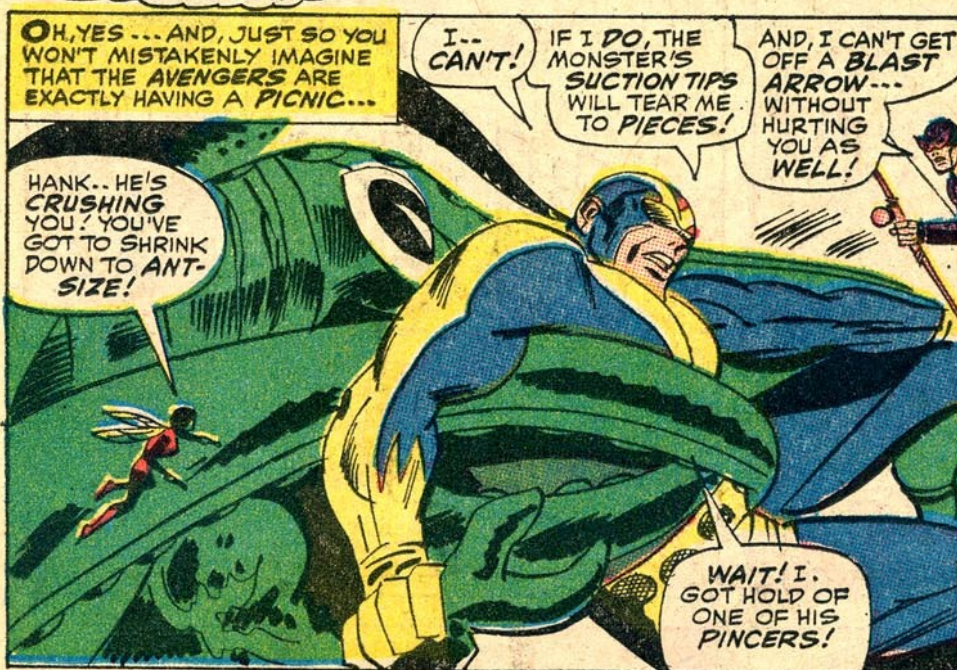
VERILY, THOU SHALT PAY FOR THAT RASH ASSUMPTION... AND PAY DEARLY!



NOW WE SHALL LEARN HOW FARES THE SUB-MARINER WHEN HE FIGHTS ON LAND!

WELL, MORTAL... WHERE NOW THINE OVERBEARING TAUNTS... THINE EMPTY, ENDLESS THREATS?

WHOK!



NO!! 'TWOULD BE A **MOCKERY..**
A CRIME AGAINST THE HONOR OF FAIR
ATLANTIS... FOR HER PRINCE TO
DEFEAT A VALIANT FOE THUS
UNFAIRLY!

I MUST WILL THE **COSMIC**
CUBE... NOW THE GLEAMING
PENDANT ABOUT MY NECK...
TO RETURN US BOTH TO THE
SURFACE!



THERE, I SHALL COMMAND
ITS POWER TO KEEP MY BODY
MOIST... SO THAT I MAY
CONTEST WITH **HERCULES**
ON **EQUAL TERMS!**

BUT, EVEN AS THE SUB-MARINER
MAKES HIS DRAMATIC DECISION,
ANOTHER SEARING STRUGGLE
REACHES A MIND-STAGGERING
CLIMAX...

UHHH!! MANAGED
TO SEND NAMOR'S BODYGUARD
SPRAWLING... BUT, I COULDN'T
DO IT AGAIN!



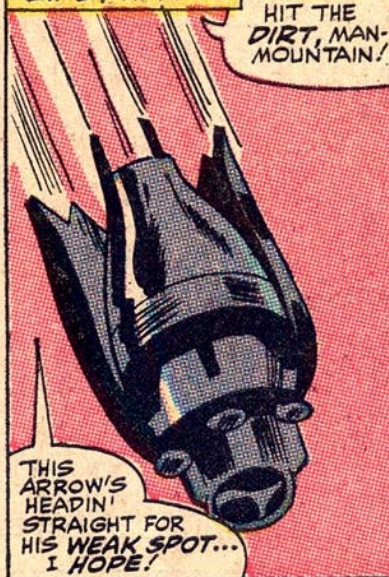
OKAY, HAWKEYE...
IF EVER YOU PLAYED
LITTLE MR. SURESHOT
WITH THOSE TOYS OF
YOURS...

DO IT...
NOW?



AND, NO SOONER DO THOSE
WORDS ESCAPE GOLIATH'S
LIPS, THAN...

HIT THE
DIRT, MAN-
MOUNTAIN!



THIS
ARROW'S
HEADIN'
STRAIGHT FOR
HIS **WEAK SPOT...**
I **HOPE!**



RRAARGG

BWOOM!

YOU DID IT,
BOW-SLINGER!
HE'S **FINISHED!**

SURE! THE NAME'S
HAWKEYE, REMEMBER...
NOT **BUTTER-**
FINGERS!

MEANWHILE, A TINY FIGURE FLITS
ANXIOUSLY ABOVE TWO MIGHTY
COMBATANTS...



NEITHER CAN
DEFEAT THE **OTHER...**
BUT, THEY'RE LIABLE TO
DESTROY HALF THE
BASE IN THE
PROCESS!

IF ONLY WE KNEW WHAT
THE **COSMIC CUBE**
LOOKED LIKE... SO THAT
WE COULD STOP THE
SUB-MARINER FROM
USING IT!

MISSED!
THINE **AMULET**
HATH **BLINDED**
ME!

SOON, FOOL, YOU
SHALL **NEED** NO **Feeble**
EXCUSES!

THE **AMULET...** OF
COURSE! THAT
MUST BE THE
COSMIC CUBE...
IT HAS TO BE!

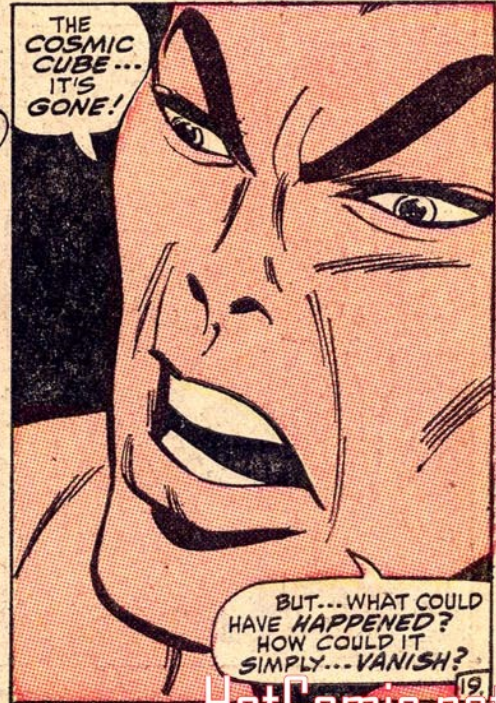
IF THE CUBE
COULD CREATE
THAT **AMALGA-**
BEAST...
SURELY IT HAS
THE POWER TO
CHANGE ITS
OWN FORM!



FTAK!

IT PROBABLY JUST
WORKS WHEN IN
CONTACT WITH
SOMEONE... SO,
LET'S SEE WHAT
HAPPENS WHEN I
USE MY **STING!**
ON ITS **CHAIN!**

THE
COSMIC
CUBE...
IT'S
GONE!



BUT... WHAT COULD
HAVE **HAPPENED?**
HOW COULD IT
SIMPLY... **VANISH?**

BUT, BEFORE EVEN THE ALERT EYE OF THE MONARCH OF ATLANTIS CAN PERCEIVE...

...THE COSMIC CUBE...INSTANTLY REGAINING ITS TRUE FORM... TOPPLES INTO AN ALMOST BOTTOM-LESS CREVICE AT NAMOR'S VERY FEET!

THEN, AT A SUDDEN SOUND, A STILL-PUZZLED ATLANTIAN TURNS TO SEE...

THE OTHER AVENGERS...RUSHING THIS WAY! EVEN MY AMALGA-BEAST COULD NOT TRULY DEFEAT THEM!

LET THEM COME, MORTAL! THEY SHALL NOT INTERFERE IN THY BATTLE WITH HERCULES!

NAY, OLYMPIAN! FURTHER STRUGGLE NOW WOULD PROVE NOTHING!

BUT, REST ASSURED...THE DAY WILL COME WHEN YOU SHALL AGAIN FACE THE WRATH OF... THE SUB-MARINER!

SPLATSH!

SCANT SECONDS LATER, WHEN THE WASP HAS EXPLAINED HER INTUITIVE ACTIONS TO HER FELLOW AVENGERS...

YOU OUTDID US ALL, LADY! WE PROVIDED THE MUSCLE TO SLOW DOWN NAMOR... BUT YOU STOPPED 'IM COLD!

NOW THAT THE 'QUAKE'S OVER...AND THIS CREVICE IS SEALED UP...EVEN OL' FISH-FACE CAN'T GET AT THE CUBE!

AYE! YET, I DO LONG TO CONFRONT HIM AGAIN ONE DAY!

DON'T WORRY, HERCULES! YOU MIGHT JUST GET THAT CHANCE!

STRANGE...WE FOUGHT HIM... BUT, I CAN'T BELIEVE HE IS TRULY EVIL!

SURE, SURE...HE'S A REGULAR PUSSYCAT!

BUT, IF HE EVER FINDS THAT COSMIC CUBE AGAIN... WORLD, WAAH OUT!

HOWEVER, THEIR FORMER FOE ALREADY HAS OTHER MATTERS ON HIS FERTILE MIND...

EVEN I DARE NOT CHALLENGE BOTH THE MILITARY AND THE AVENGERS... NOT YET!

I MUST RETURN TO GOLDEN ATLANTIS... TO CONSIDER MY COURSE FOR THE FUTURE!

WHEN NEXT NAMOR APPEARS, HE SHALL NEED NO COSMIC CUBE TO DEFEAT HIS ENEMIES!

AND NOW, JUST TO CLEAR UP ONE FINAL LOOSE END OF OUR AMORPHOUS EPIC...

...LET US LOOK MUCH FARTHER BENEATH OUR WORLD, SOME TIME LATER... TO THE PLANET'S VERY CORE, WHERE...

HOLD, MY MINDLESS MINIONS! I SPY SOME ALIEN OBJECT BEFORE ME!

IT MUST BE SOME ARTIFACT FROM THE SURFACE, FALLEN INTO THE DOMAIN OF... THE MOLE MAN!

HMMM... NEVER HAVE I BEHELD ITS LIKE! IT SEEMS TO SHIMMER... AS THOUGH WITH A LIFE OF ITS OWN!

BUT, WHY DO I STAND HERE GAZING THUS AT WHAT IS OBVIOUSLY A MERE TOY... AN INFANT'S BUILDING BLOCK?

BAH! AWAY WITH IT... I HAVE NO TIME TO WASTE ON WORTHLESS BAUBLES!

IT IS WEAPONS THAT THE MOLE MAN NEEDS... NOT A CHILD'S GAUDY PLAY-THING!

NEXT ISH: DIABLO... AND THE DRAGON MAN!

NOTE: OUR LETTERS SECTION APPEARS AFTER NEXT PAGE