

AVENGERS

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MARVEL COMICS GROUP

THE AVENGERS

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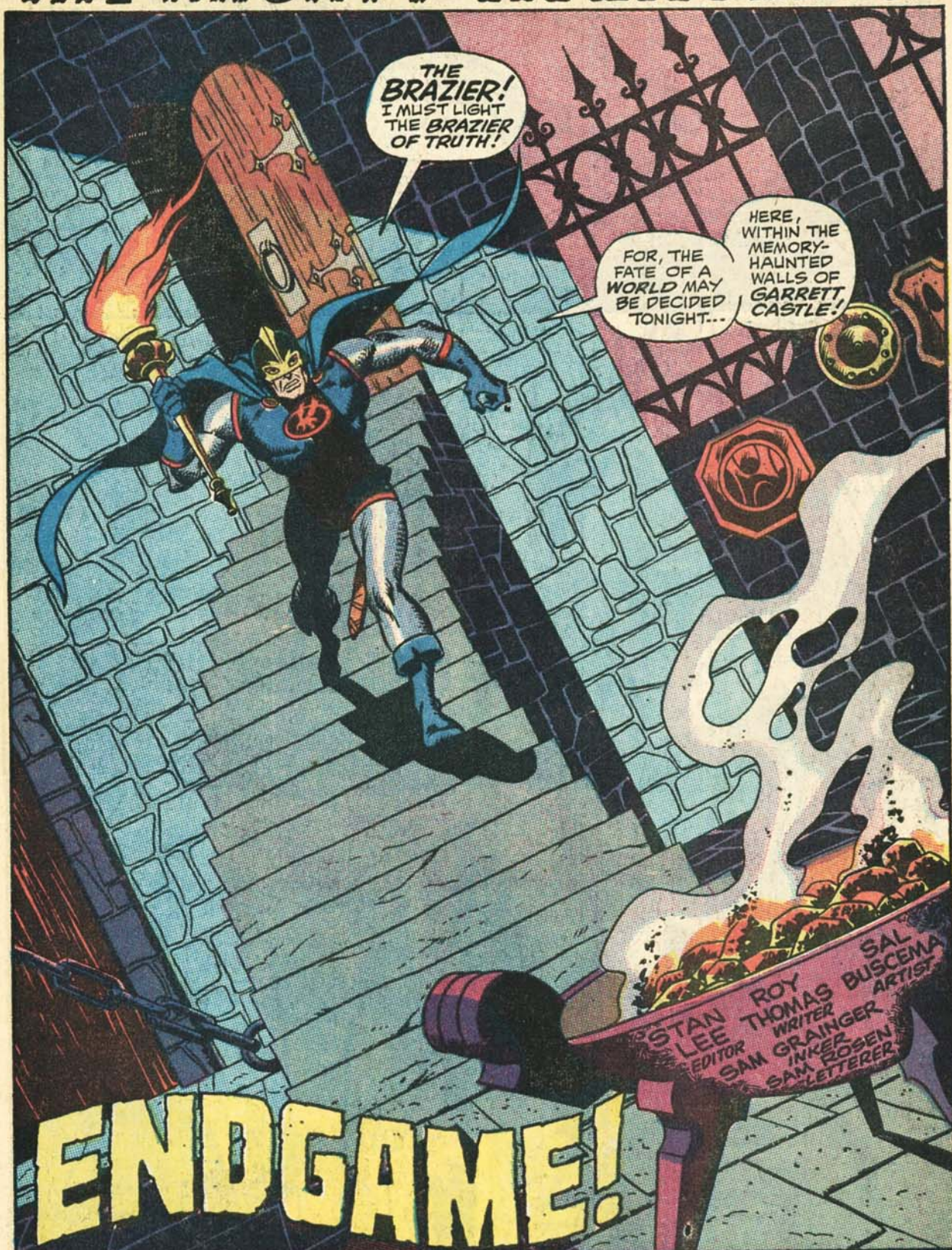


S. BUSCEMA
G. RAINGER

Telegram-Marvel comics
(Avengers)

The FINAL BATTLE!

THE MIGHTY AVENGERS!



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AWAKEN, ANCESTOR MINE...
SIR PERCY OF SCANDIA...
YOU WHO WERE FIRST TO
WEAR THE ARMOR OF THE
BLACK KNIGHT!

ONCE MORE, YOUR
HEIR HAS NEED
OF YOU!

DANE WHITMAN...
WHY HAVE YE SUMMONED
MY SPIRIT FORM TO
THE LAND OF THE
LIVING?

YE ARE IMPATIENT
BEYOND MEASURE,
MY SON!

BUT, YE
SHALL KNOW
THE TRUTH...

...THOUGH IT
MAY DRIVE
YE MAD!

"BEHOLD THE IMAGES
WHICH FORM IN THE
FLAMES OF THE BURN-
ING BRAZIER...BEHOLD
THE WORLD OF THE
41 ST CENTURY, AND
THE CASTLE OF ALL-
CONQUERING KANG...!"

...THEN, IT IS
AGREED, KANG!

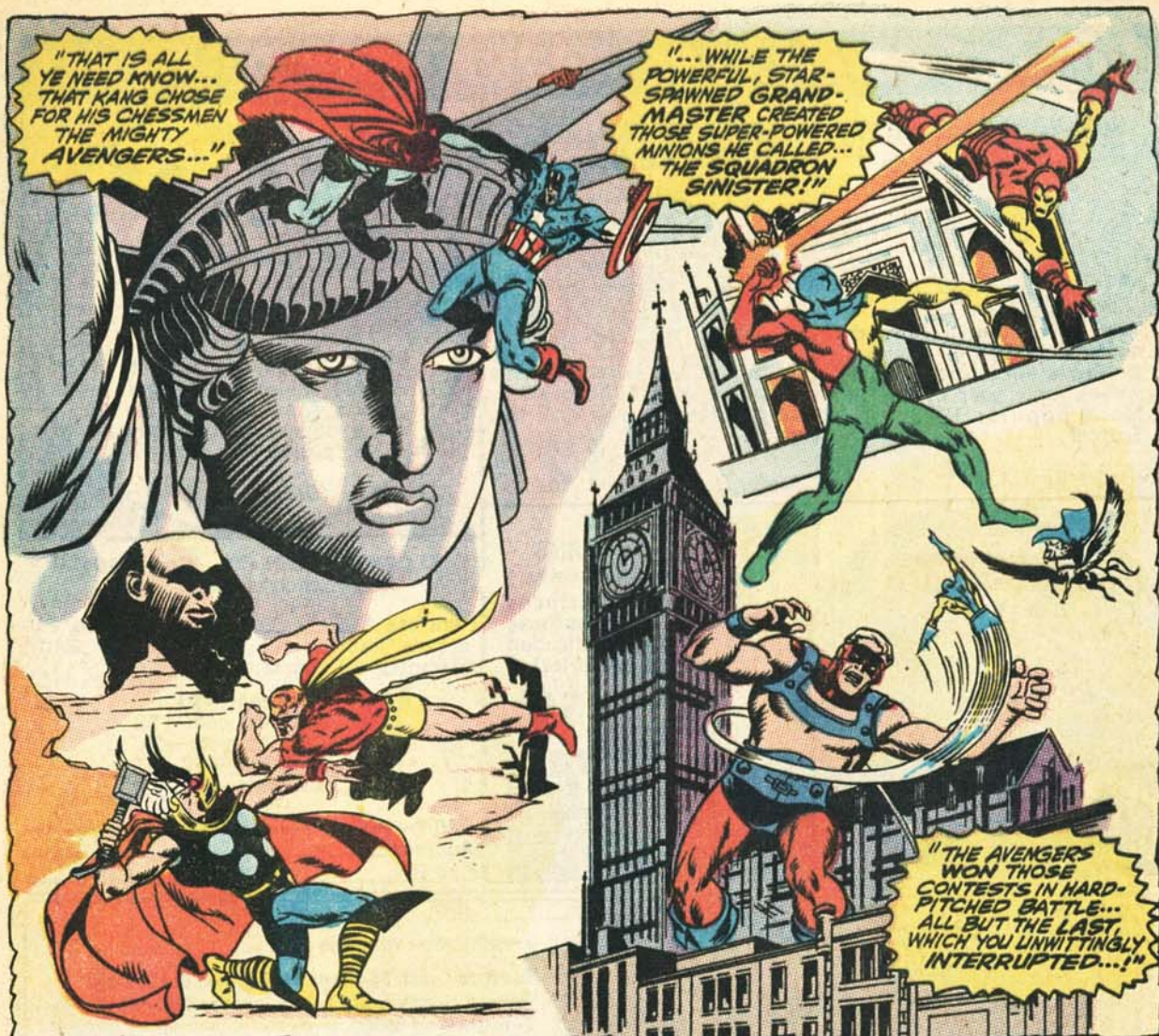
WE SHALL PLAY
THE GAME OF THE
GALAXIES, YOU
AND I...

...AND THE
STAKES
SHALL BE...
THE FATE OF
THE EARTH!

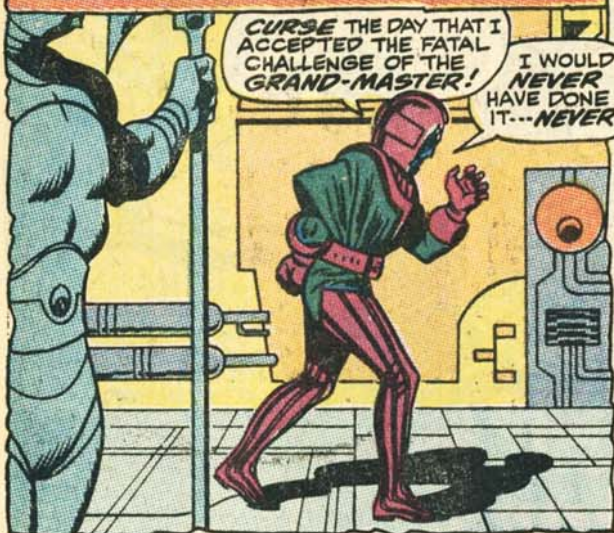
BE NOT
ANGRY,
ANCESTOR!

I THINK YOU
SENSE WHY I
HAVE COME...
AND WHAT I
WISH TO KNOW!

IF SO,
I CHARGE YOU
...SPEAK!

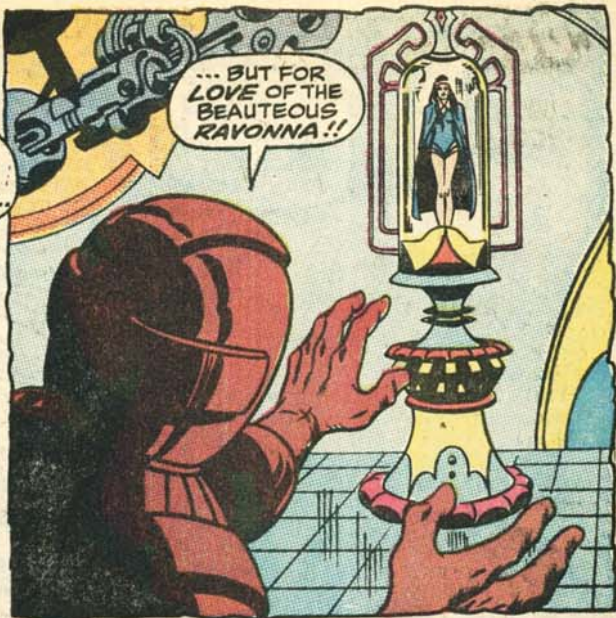


"SEE THE ONE CALLED KANG... HE WHO RULES THE WORLD OF THAT FAR-OFF FUTURE... AS HE PACES THRU HIS OWN DARKSOME WALLS...!"



CURSE THE DAY THAT I ACCEPTED THE FATAL CHALLENGE OF THE GRAND-MASTER!

I WOULD NEVER HAVE DONE IT... NEVER...



... BUT FOR LOVE OF THE BEAUTEOUS RAYONNA!!



FOR MONTHS SHE HAS STOOD LIKE THIS...

NOT DEAD... YET STRANGELY NOT ALIVE!

CAN ANY BLAME ME, IF I WOULD RISK A PLANET'S HISTORY TO SEE HER DRAW ANOTHER BREATH?



CAN ANY BLAME KANG THE CONQUEROR...

... BECAUSE HE IS ALSO... A MAN...?



BUT, THERE MUST BE NO TEARS... NO MOMENTS WASTED IN IDLE REMORSE!

THAT IS FOR LESSER BEINGS... NOT FOR KANG!



FOR, THE SECOND AND FINAL PHASE OF THE GAME IS ABOUT TO BEGIN!

IT WILL DETERMINE WHETHER EARTH IS DESTROYED... HURLED INTO OBLIVION...

OR WHETHER I SHALL WIN THE POWER OF LIFE AND DEATH...

...AND RULE ON, WITH RAYONNA SEATED AT MY SIDE!



"AND NOW, YE
MAY FEAST YOUR
EYES UPON THE
ENDGAME OF
THIS FEARFUL
MATCH, IN A
WORLD TWENTY
CENTURIES
DISTANT...!"

MY THREE
REMAINING
AVENGERS ARE
READY, IN THE
PLACE THAT HAS
BEEN CHOSEN!

WHERE
ARE YOUR
CHAMPIONS,
TO REPLACE
THOSE WHO
FAILED?

THEY WILL
APPEAR, KANG,
WHEN THE MOMENT
IS RIPE!

AND, THE IRONY
IS THAT THEY SHALL
NEVER KNOW THEY
DO THE GRAND-
MASTER'S WORK...

...ACHIEVING
VICTORY FOR ONE
WHO LIVES ONLY TO
PLAY...THE GAME!!



...IT'S
UNCANNY!

WE STAND
ALMOST IN THE
SHADOW OF
THE HISTORIC
LOUVRE!

KANG HAS
HURLED US
INTO THE
NAZI-OCCUPIED
PARIS OF THE
SECOND WORLD
WAR!

A FITTING
PLACE, PERHAPS,
FOR THE FATE OF
A PLANET TO
BE DECIDED!

IF WE
GET THE
CHANCE,
PANTHER!

THOSE
GOOSE-
STEPPERS
OVER THERE
DON'T LOOK
AS IF THEY
WANT A
COSTUMED
TRIO LOITER-
ING AROUND!

AUF
HALTEN!



IN ANY OF THE
SIX LANGUAGES
I KNOW... THAT
TONE WAS
HOSTILE!

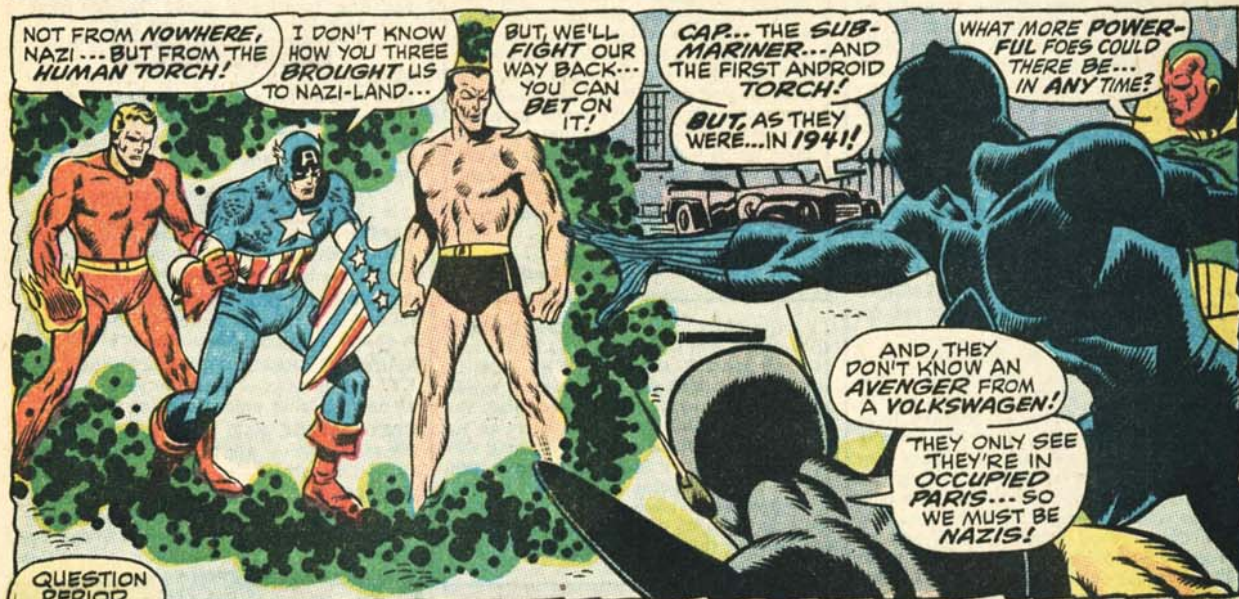
I WAS TOO YOUNG
FOR THIS WAR THE
FIRST TIME AROUND...

THIS IS ALMOST
TOO EASY, HANK...
OR YELLOWJACKET,
IF YOU PREFER!

COULD THE INSIDIOUS
GRAND-MASTER
MEAN TO SEND ONLY
NAZI SOLDIERS
AGAINST US?

...SO I'M
GLAD TO GET
A SECOND
CRACK AT IT!

HIMMEL...!



YE HAVE SEEN ENOUGH, DANE WHITMAN! AND NOW...

AND MORE...
SOMEHOW, I
KNOW THAT I
CAN REACH
IT... BUT NOW?

THERE MUST
BE SOME WAY
...SOME KEY
THAT WILL UN-
LOCK THE DOOR!

OF COURSE!
MY EBONY
BLADE!

GOLIATH WAS HOLDING IT,
WHEN THE GRAND-MASTER
SWEEPED HIM INTO SOME
FAR-FLUNG FUTURE!

WE ARE ONE,
THAT BLADE
AND I... WE
ARE ONE!!

AND NOW, SINCE
I DARE NOT
INTERFERE IN
THE PAST...

...I MUST
SOMEHOW
REACH... THE
FUTURE!

WHERE IT
IS, THERE
MUST
BE... THE
BLACK
KNIGHT!

IT'S WORKING...
I CAN FEEL IT
WORKING...
AND YET...

I'M IN AGONY...
AS IF... TIME AND
SPACE THEMSELVES
WERE TEARING ME
APART!

HELP ME,
ANCESTOR...
HELP ME!!

"I HAVE
PLACED YOU
IN ASTRAL
CONTACT WITH
YOUR MYSTIC
SWORD, MY
SON!"

"EVEN
I CAN DO
... NO
MORE!"

"EVEN NOW, AS
YOU BRIDGE THE
GAP BETWEEN THE
CENTURIES, I FEEL
THE BOND BETWEEN
US GROWING
WEAKER...!"

FAREWELL,
DANE WHITMAN...
FAREWELLLLLLL..."

SUDDENLY,
I FEEL NO
PAIN...

BUT, I'M
ALONE ONCE
MORE... IN
A STRANGE
PLACE!

IS THIS THE
40TH CENTURY
...THE ERA OF
KANG...

OR AM I A
MERE CASTAWAY
ON THE SHORES
OF TIME?



AHH...
THERE'S
MY
ANSWER!

MY EBONY
BLADE...AND
NEAR IT, FOUR
AVENGERS...

...HELD IN SOME
DREAMLIKE STATE
BY THOSE SPHERES
BEHIND THEM!

THE SAME
SPHERE THAT
WILL SOON
HOLD YOU,
INTRUDER!!



UH OH! IT DOESN'T
TAKE MUCH IMAGINATION
TO KNOW THAT THOSE
MUST BE TWO OF KANG'S
GUARDS!

BUT, THEY
COULD LEARN
A LESSON
FROM
A TWENTIETH-
CENTURY
GORILLA...



...WHICH DOES ITS CHEST-BEATING
AFTER IT WINS A BATTLE!

THWAK!



AND, WHILE THAT RAY-SPEAR
MIGHT LAY LOW PRINCE
VALIANT...

IT HAS
DISTINCTLY LESS
VALUE AGAINST A
BLADE FORGED BY
MIGHTY MERLIN
HIMSELF!

MY OWN RAY...REBOUNDED
UPON ME...NO...!

ZZRAAP!

NNNNNN!!



"...AND, IF THREE AVENGERS DON'T WIN A CERTAIN BATTLE THAT TOOK PLACE OVER TWENTY CENTURIES AGO... WE DON'T EVEN HAVE THAT...!!"

YOU'RE FAST, NAZI... LIKE THE JUNGLE CAT YOU COPY!

BUT, MY SHIELD IS FASTER!

KTANG!

UNNNHHH!

I FEEL LIKE A MAN CAUGHT IN A MADDENING NIGHTMARE!

BUT, HERE... NOW... HE THINKS OF ME AS A FASCIST FOE!

ONLY MINUTES AGO, I STOOD AT THE SIDE OF ANOTHER CAPTAIN AMERICA... YET THE SAME MAN!

WHAT IN...??

WATCH THEM, CAP... THEY'RE FULL OF NAZI TRICKS! THEY...

YEEEOOWWW!

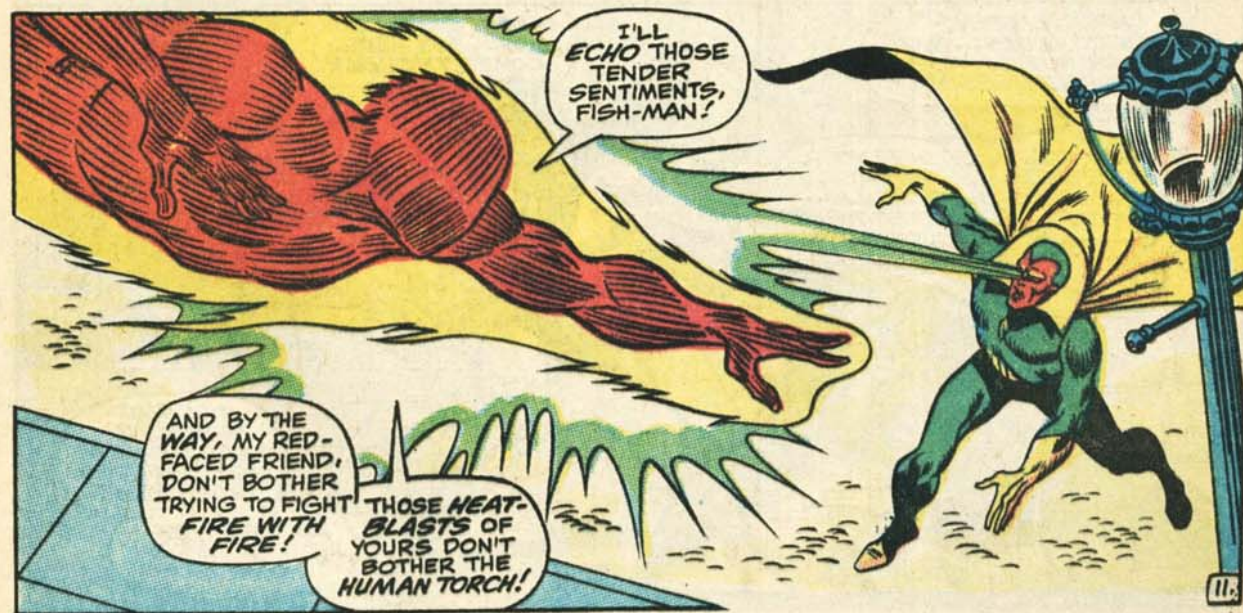
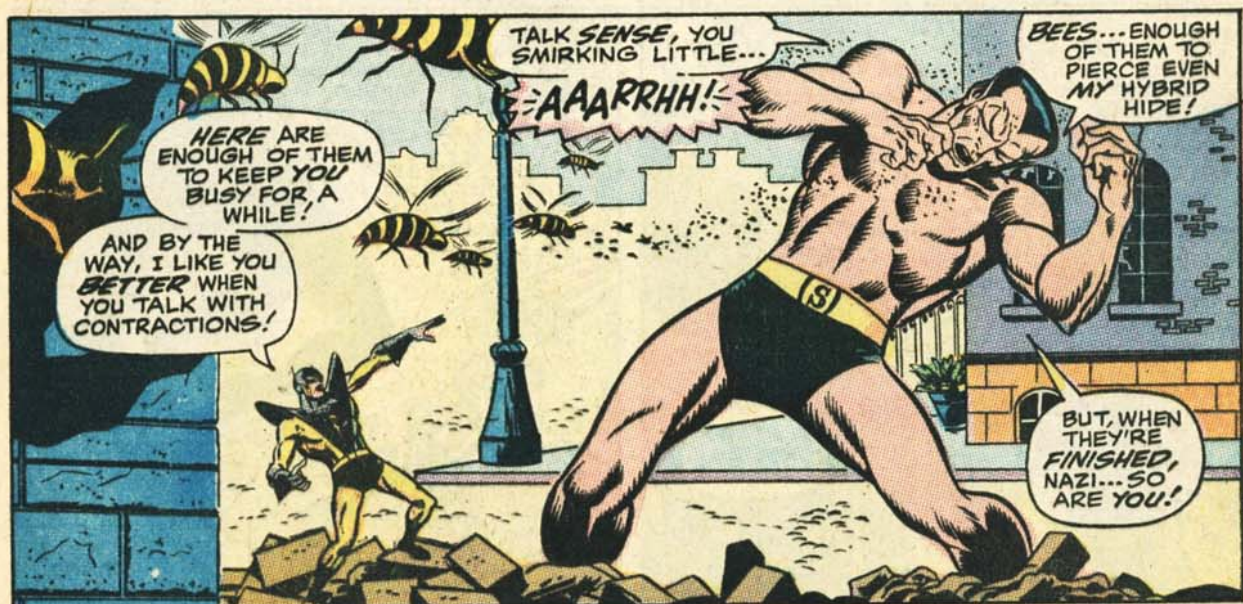
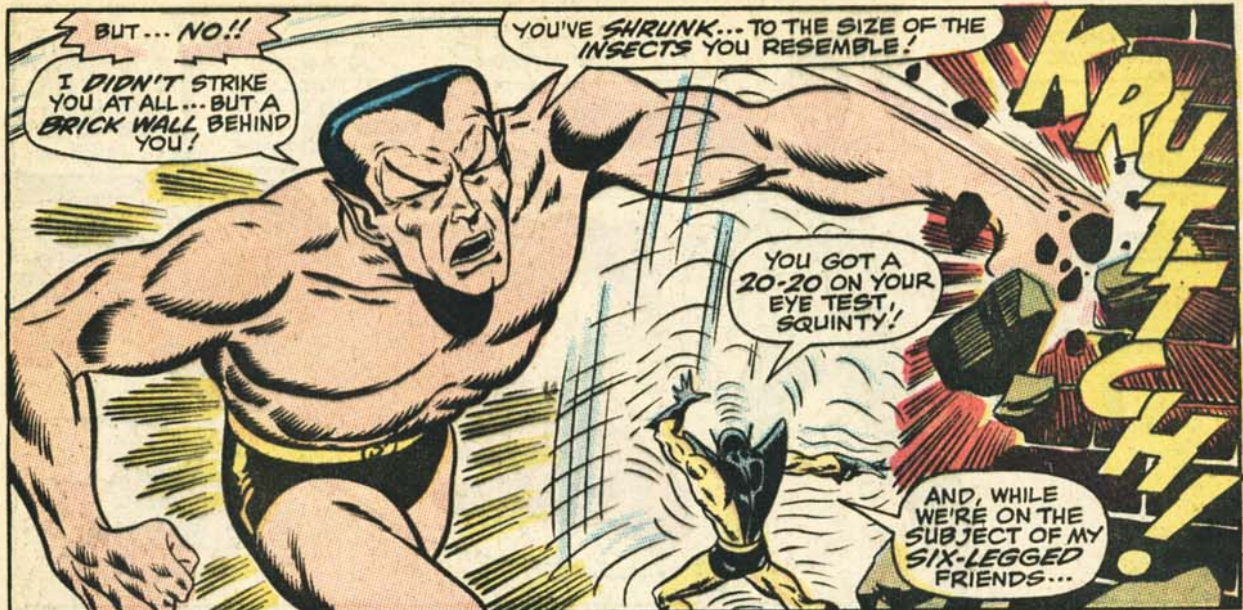
NOW, IF YOU'LL ONLY LISTEN TO...

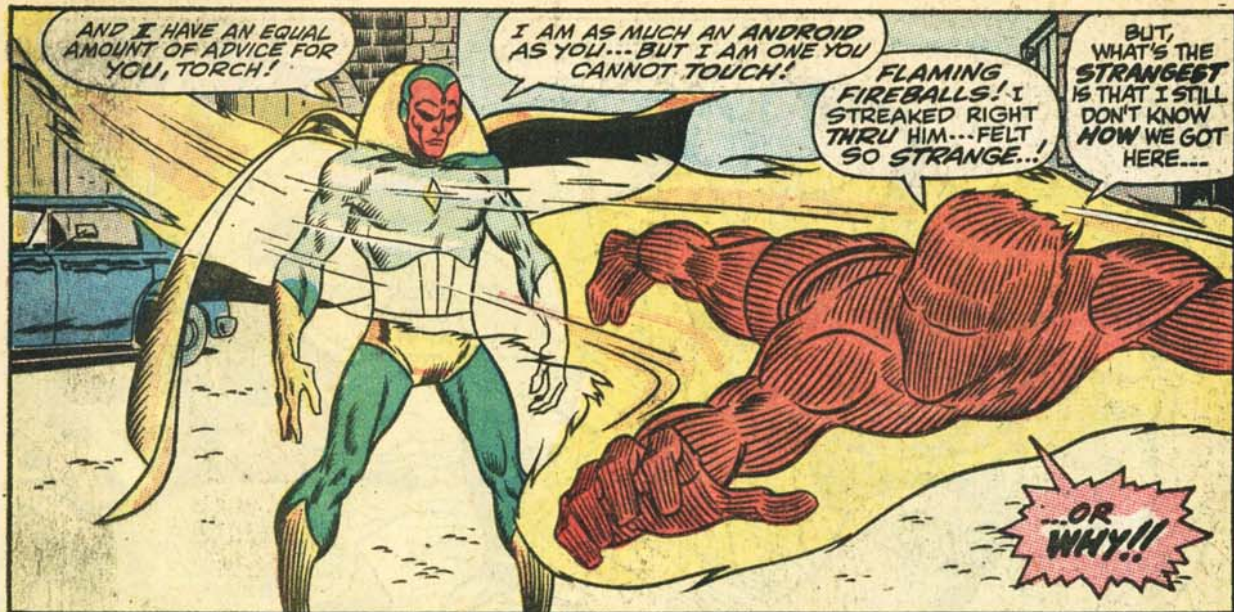
THWAM!

HAH! YOU'VE STOPPED SPEAKING, MASKED MAN!

WE'RE NOT NAZIS, NAMOR... ANY MORE THAN YOU THREE ARE...

COULD IT BE BECAUSE OF MY FIST IN YOUR MOUTH?





AND I HAVE AN EQUAL AMOUNT OF ADVICE FOR YOU, TORCH!

I AM AS MUCH AN ANDROID AS YOU... BUT I AM ONE YOU CANNOT TOUCH!

FLAMING FIREBALLS! I STREAKED RIGHT THRU HIM... FELT SO STRANGE...

BUT, WHAT'S THE STRANGEST IS THAT I STILL DON'T KNOW HOW WE GOT HERE...

...OR WHY!!



I JUST REALIZED... THAT IS THE ONE QUESTION WE CANNOT ALLOW OUR FOES TO ASK THEMSELVES!

WE THREE AVENGERS CAN ONLY WIN THIS GRIM GALACTIC GAME BY DEFEATING THEM, NOT BY...

A PENNY FOR 'EM, TABBY...



NOW, I WAS JUST THINKING THAT I WISH I HAD A DISK-SHAPED SHIELD! *

THEN I COULD'VE TOSSED IT AT YOU... AND SAVED DIRTYING MY HANDS!

MMFF!!

* SOMETHING CAP DID GET, LATER IN 1941! ... S.



HANK... LISTEN! WE'RE FOOLS... AND WE'VE GOT TO STOP FIGHTING DEFENSIVELY!

ONLY A VICTORY WILL SAVE THE EARTH... NOT A STALE-MATE!

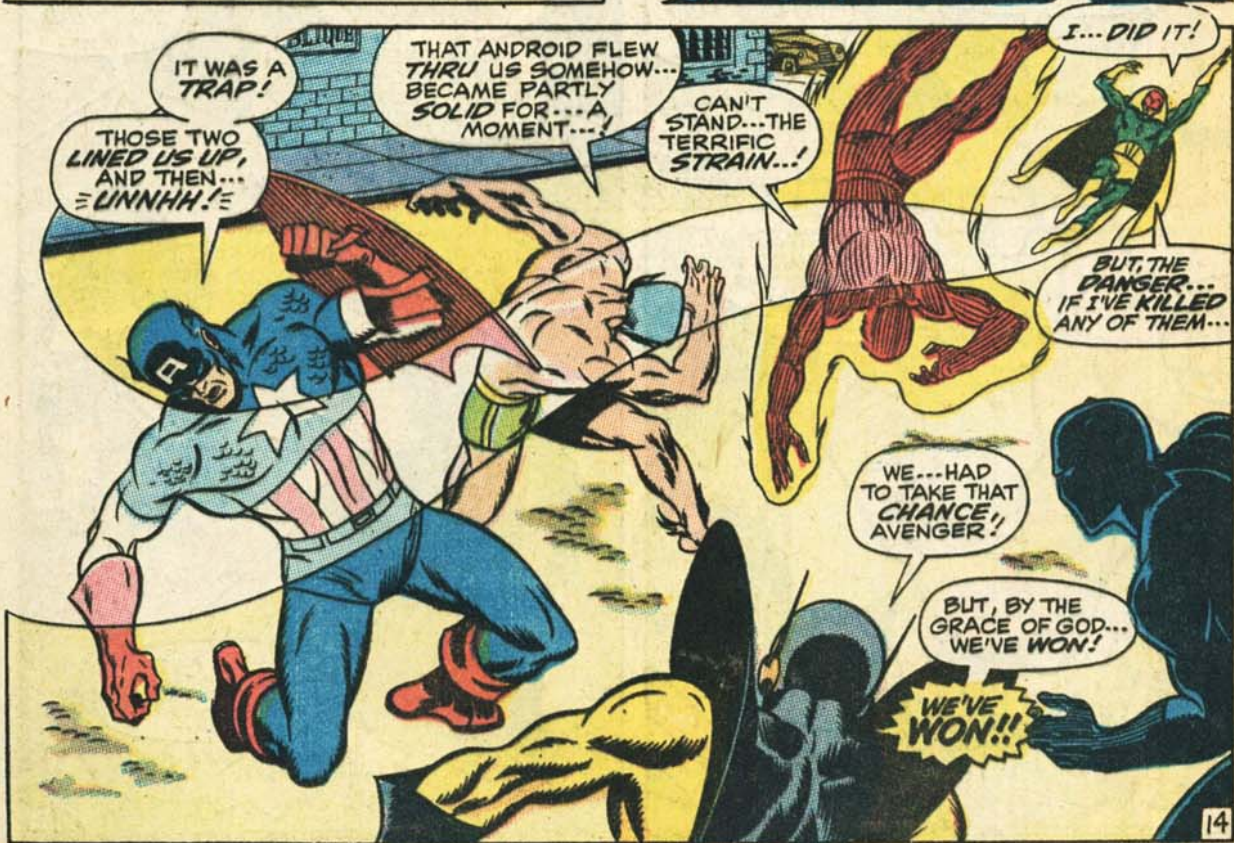
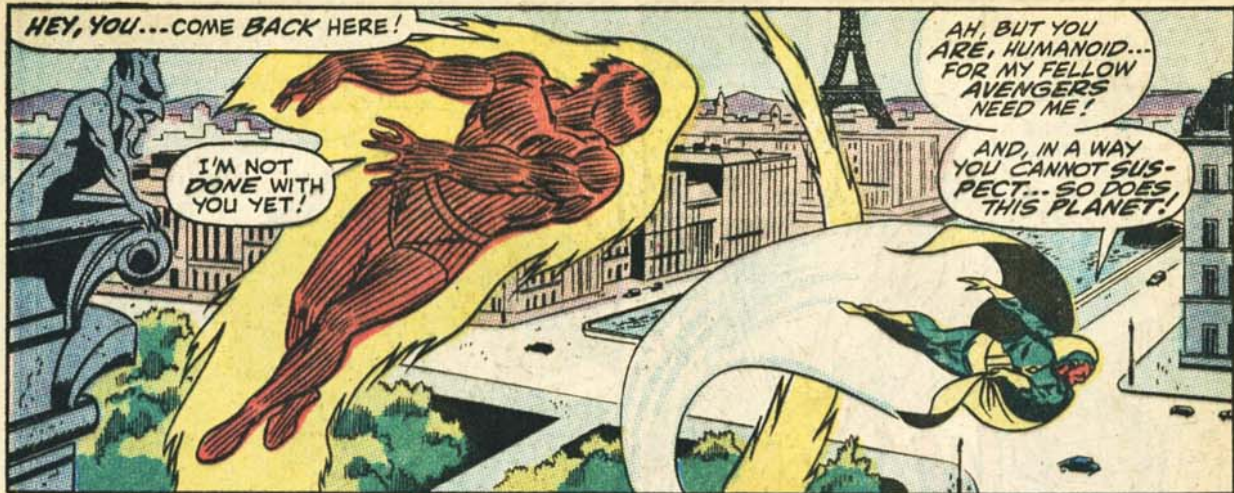
SAVE YOUR BREATH, T'CHALLA... I JUST FIGURED OUT THE SAME...

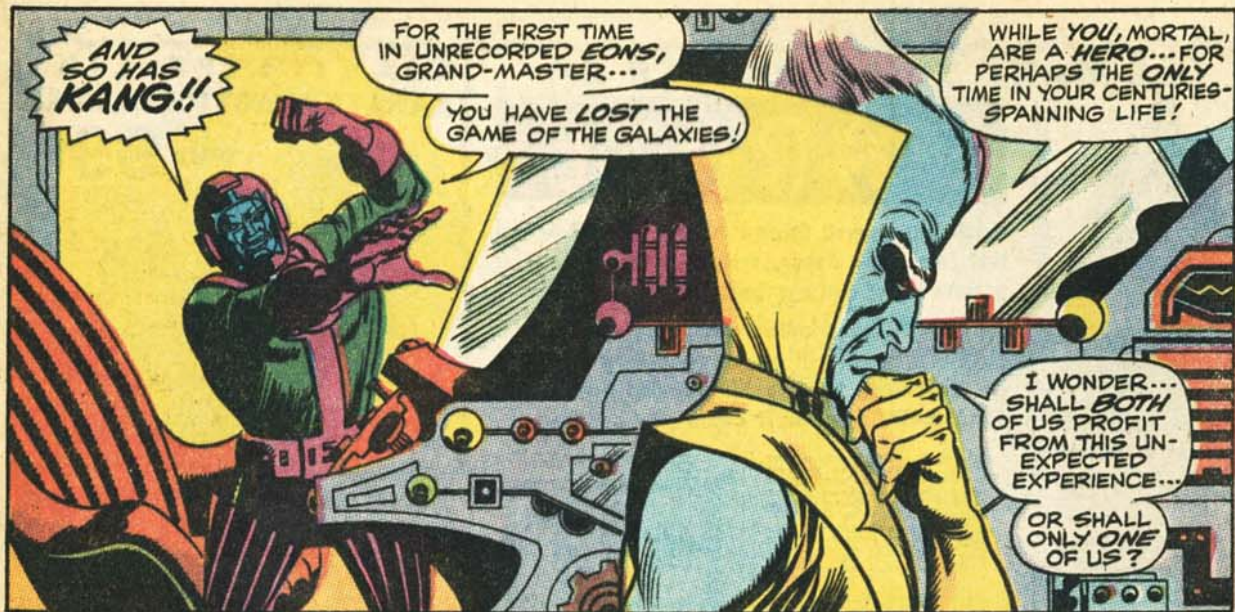
UH OH! DON'T LOOK NOW... BUT HERE COMES TROUBLE!

THE SUB-MARINER JUST DITCHED MY INSECT BUDDIES IN THE SEINE...

AND HE'S NOT HEADING THIS WAY TO TALK SHOP!







AND SO HAS KANG!!

FOR THE FIRST TIME IN UNRECORDED EONS, GRAND-MASTER...

YOU HAVE LOST THE GAME OF THE GALAXIES!

WHILE YOU, MORTAL, ARE A HERO...FOR PERHAPS THE ONLY TIME IN YOUR CENTURIES-SPANNING LIFE!

I WONDER... SHALL BOTH OF US PROFIT FROM THIS UNEXPECTED EXPERIENCE...

OR SHALL ONLY ONE OF US?

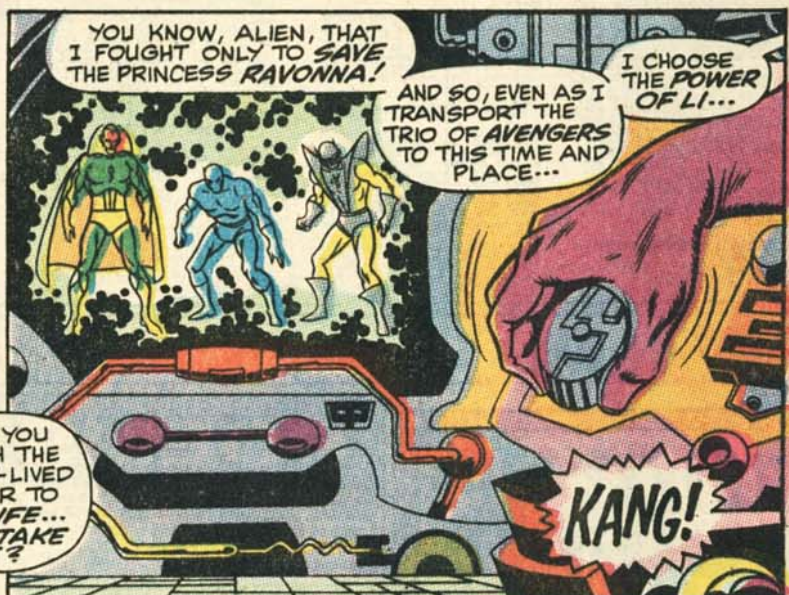


BUT NOW, IT IS TIME YOU CLAIMED YOUR PRIZE!

YET, YOU WON ONLY HALF THE GAME...FOR THE FIRST PHASE ENDED IN STALE-MATE!

YOU WISHED THE POWER OF LIFE AND DEATH IF YOU DEFEATED ME!

DO YOU WISH THE SHORT-LIVED POWER TO GIVE LIFE... OR TO TAKE IT?



YOU KNOW, ALIEN, THAT I FOUGHT ONLY TO SAVE THE PRINCESS RAVONNA!

AND SO, EVEN AS I TRANSPORT THE TRIO OF AVENGERS TO THIS TIME AND PLACE...

I CHOOSE THE POWER OF LI...

KANG!



THE OTHER AVENGERS... FREE!

BUT, HOW DID YOU ESCAPE MY NUMBING SPHERES OF SOLITUDE?

THERE BE MORE IN THIS MAN'S WORLD, VILLAIN, THAN THY PERVERTED SCIENCE!

BE THANKFUL OUR FELLOW AVENGERS ARE ALIVE, KANG...

OR WE'D REALLY BE FEELING HOSTILE!



YET, STILL DIDST THOU SAVE
A **WORLD**...WHATE'ER THINE
OWN **INTENT**!

WHAT OUR ASGARDIAN
FRIEND IS **GETTING**
AT, KANG...

...IS THAT
WE'LL CALL IT
EVEN, IF YOU'LL
JUST SEND US
BACK TO OUR
OWN **TIME**!



SEND YOU **BACK**?

LET YOU **ESCAPE**
FROM MY GRASP,
NOW THAT YOU
HAVE DONE MY
BIDDING?

NEVER!

EVEN MORE THAN
I LOVE THE FAIR
RAVONNA...I
DESPISE THE
VERY NAME
"AVENGER"!



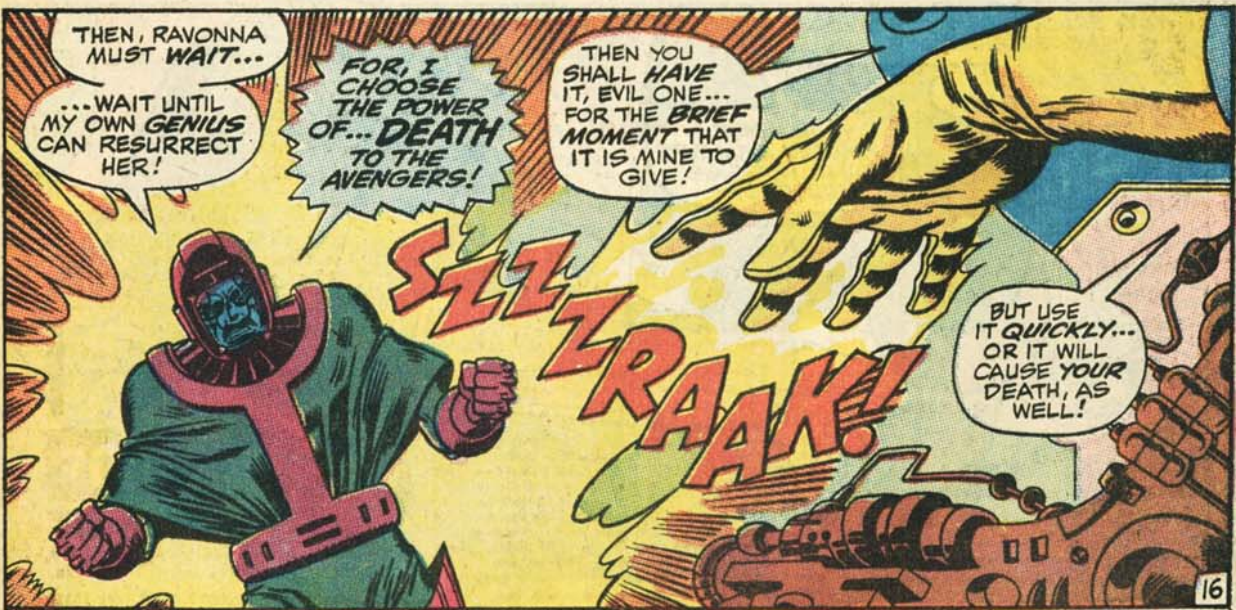
GRAND-MASTER!
GIVE ME THE POWER
OF **BOTH** LIFE AND
DEATH...

IT CANNOT **BE**, FOR
YOU MUST **CHOOSE**
WHICH TEMPLE OF
SCIENCE YOU SHALL
OVERTHROW!

...SO THAT I MAY
SLAY MY ENEMIES,
AND THEN
RESTORE MY
BELOVED TO
LIFE!

WHICH
SHALL IT
BE,
MORTAL?

LIFE FOR THE
GIRL...OR **DEATH**
FOR THE AVENGERS?



THEN, RAVONNA
MUST **WAIT**...

...WAIT UNTIL
MY OWN **GENIUS**
CAN RESURRECT
HER!

FOR, I
CHOOSE
THE POWER
OF... **DEATH**
TO THE
AVENGERS!

THEN YOU
SHALL HAVE
IT, EVIL ONE...
FOR THE **BRIEF**
MOMENT THAT
IT IS MINE TO
GIVE!

**SIZZ
RAAK!**

BUT USE
IT **QUICKLY**...
OR IT WILL
CAUSE YOUR
DEATH, AS
WELL!



I CAN FEEL IT...LETHAL,
LIMITLESS POWER...
COURSING THRU ME LIKE
BLOOD!

PREPARE
YOURSELVES,
AVENGERS...
PREPARE
FOR DEATH!



HE MEANS
IT, MY
FRIEND!

WE MUST
CHARGE HIM...
FOR WE ARE THE
CLOSEST!

YOU KNOW IT,
T'CHALLA...
BUT IT LOOKS
HOPELESS!

EVEN THE
COSMIC CUBE
NEVER BESTOWED
POWER LIKE THE GRAND-
MASTER POSSESSES!



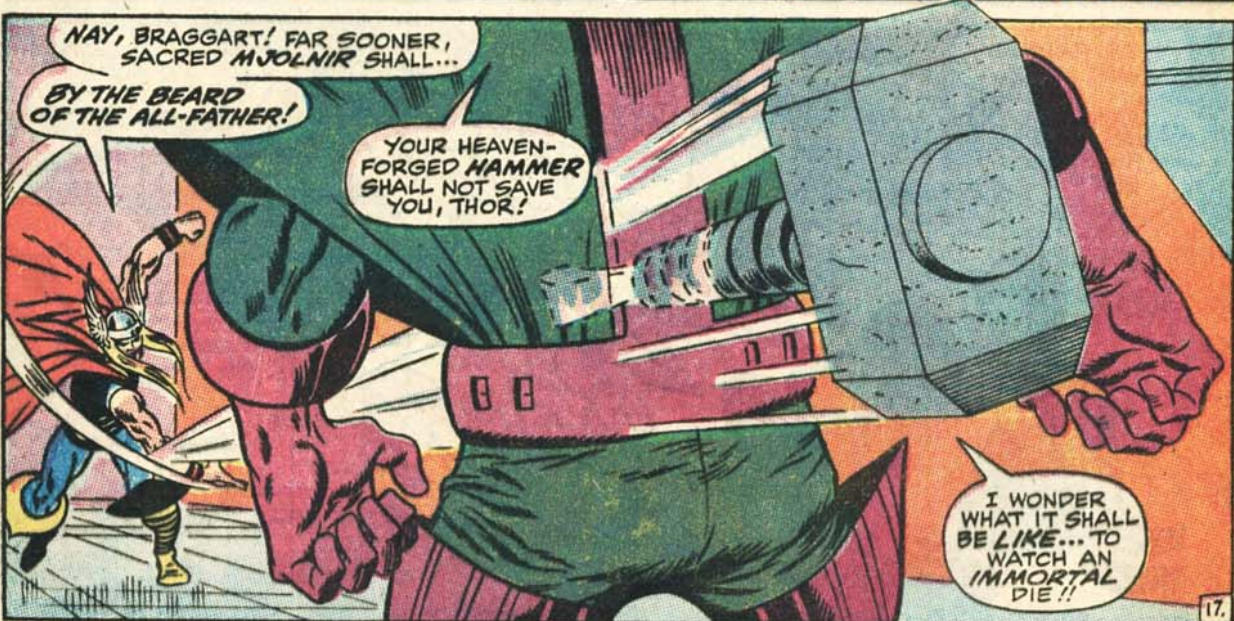
MAKE WAY, MORTALS...
THIS BATTLE BE NOT FOR
SUCH AS THEE!

LET THE SON
OF ODIN STRIKE
THE FIRST BLOW!

DON'T FEAR
FOR THEIR
LIVES JUST
YET, THUNDER
GOD!

THIS TIME, I
MERELY
REPULSED
THEM PAIN-
FULLY!

BUT
SOON...
VERY
SOON...

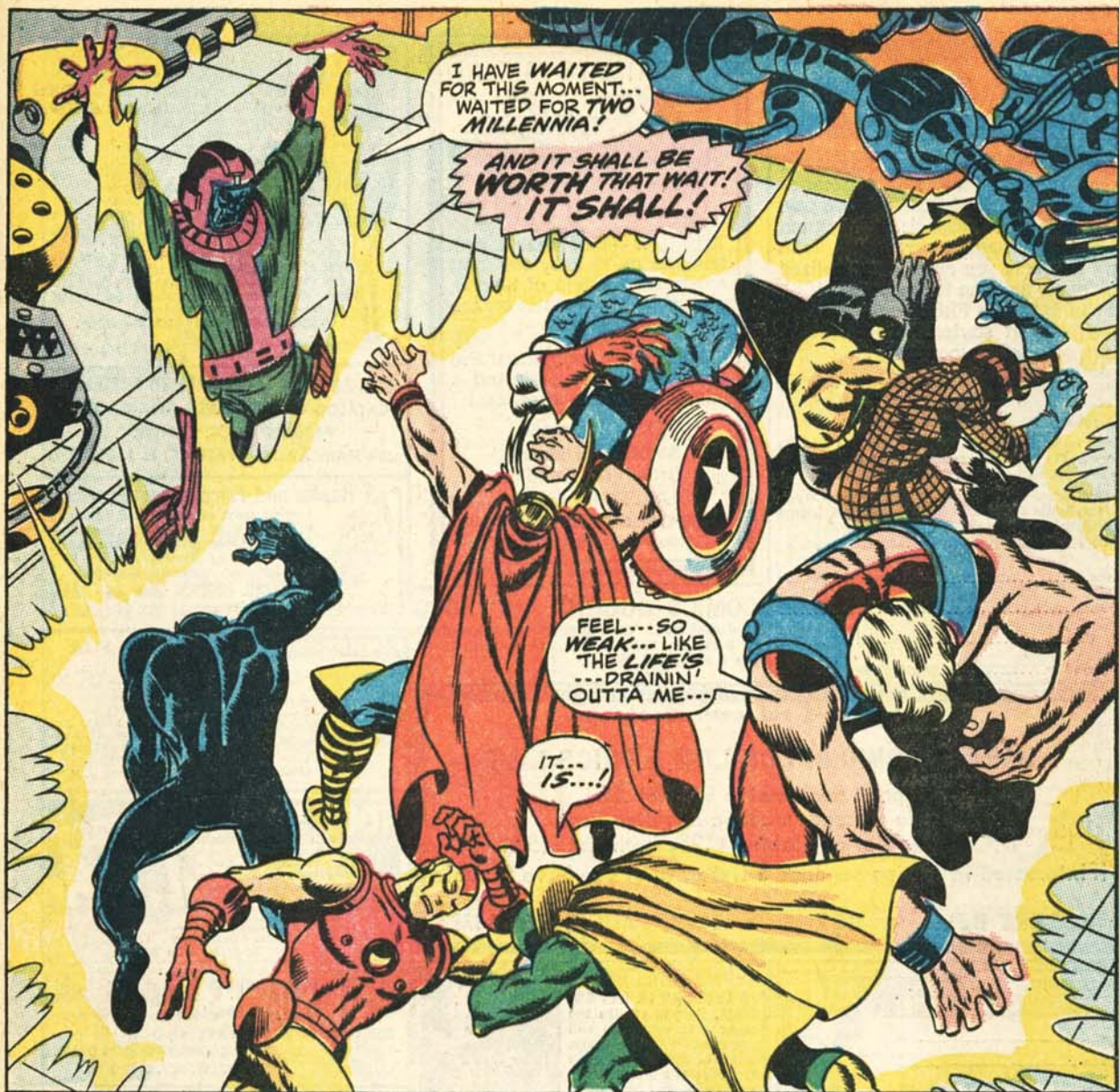


NAY, BRAGGART! FAR SOONER,
SACRED Mjolnir SHALL...

BY THE BEARD
OF THE ALL-FATHER!

YOUR HEAVEN-
FORGED HAMMER
SHALL NOT SAVE
YOU, THOR!

I WONDER
WHAT IT SHALL
BE LIKE... TO
WATCH AN
IMMORTAL
DIE!!





AND YOU, KANG, CAN DO NOTHING TO ESCAPE...

...THE FLAT OF MY EBONY BLADE!

SWAK!

AAARRRAHH!



I STRUCK IN DESPERATION...ALMOST IN FRENZY...BUT I DOWNED HIM!

HOW, GRAND-MASTER...HOW???

I GAVE HIM POWER SUPREME OVER THE AVENGERS, MORTAL!

YOU ARE NOT OF THEIR SERRED RANKS!

A TRICK... IT WAS ALL... A TRICK...!



NOW, I MUST DEPART FOR NEW GAMES...NEW GALAXIES TO CONQUER!

AND, AS I RESTORE YOU VALIANT ONES TO YOUR LONG-AGO MANSION, THINK ON KANG...AND HAVE PITY!

BECAUSE HIS HEART HELD MORE HATE THAN LOVE...HIS HANDS NOW ARE EMPTY!



...WE'RE HOME FREE AND HARDLY THE WORSE FOR WEAR!

BUT KANG...LOST HIS CHANCE...TO RESTORE RAVONNA TO LIFE!

NEVER DID TRUST A GUY WHO TAKES SIDE-BETS ON A CHESS GAME!

RIGHT NOW, WE HAVE SOMETHING ELSE TO ATTEND TO, GOLIATH!



AY, PANTHER...FOR I DO SENSE THAT WE ARE TRULY OF ONE MIND!

THOUGH THE BLACK KNIGHT WAS NOT ONE OF US WHEN HE STRUCK, WE NOW WOULD MAKE HIM SO!

IF THAT MEANS YOU'RE MAKING ME AN AVENGER...I ACCEPT!

THOUGH MY HOME IS IN ENGLAND NOW, I'LL ANSWER THE CALL WHEN YOU NEED ME!

WE ASK NO MORE, FRIEND!

RIGHT! AND NOW, JUST IN CASE HE'S FORGOTTEN WHAT THAT CALL IS...

LET'S HEAR IT ONE TIME...!

AVENGERS ASSEMBLE!



FIN