

AVENGERS

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MARVEL  
COMICS  
GROUP

# THE AVENGERS™



**ENTER: THE SQUADRON SINISTER!**

Telegram-Marvel comics  
(Avengers)

Stan Lee PRESENTS: **THE MIGHTY AVENGERS!**

# WHEN STRIKES THE SQUADRON SINISTER!

IT IS WITH KANG THAT WE MUST BEGIN... WITH HIM WHO RULES THE DARK, DESOLATE WORLD OF THE 41<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY... AN EARTH WHICH EVEN NOW STANDS IN THE SHADOW OF IMMINENT DOOM....!

**GUARDS!**  
TAKE AWAY THIS TASTELESS FODDER... THIS MEANINGLESS REFEAST!

IT IS OF BATTLE THAT I MUST NOW THINK... NOT OF FOOD!

THUS SPEAKS **KANG, THE CONQUEROR!**

A CATAclysmic CLASHING OF LEGIONS, COURTESY OF:

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WE STRIDE ALONGSIDE THE MIGHTY KANG, THRU CORRIDORS NUSHED WITH THE DREAD OF DESTRUCTION... GROWN A PLANET'S ANNIHILATION... AND THEN...

WELL, AVENGERS... HOW FARE MY UNWILLING ALLIES?

AND WHAT WORD OF PROGRESS IS THERE CONCERNING... THE GAME?

ASK THAT QUESTION OF YOUR SPARRING PARTNER, THE GRAND-MASTER!

HE WILL SPEAK ONLY TO YOU... NOT TO US!

FOR, IT IS YOU WHO ARE THE PLAYER!

WE ARE ONLY THE PAWNS... THE CHESSMEN IN THIS DEADLY TOURNAMENT!



ENOUGH, FOOLS!

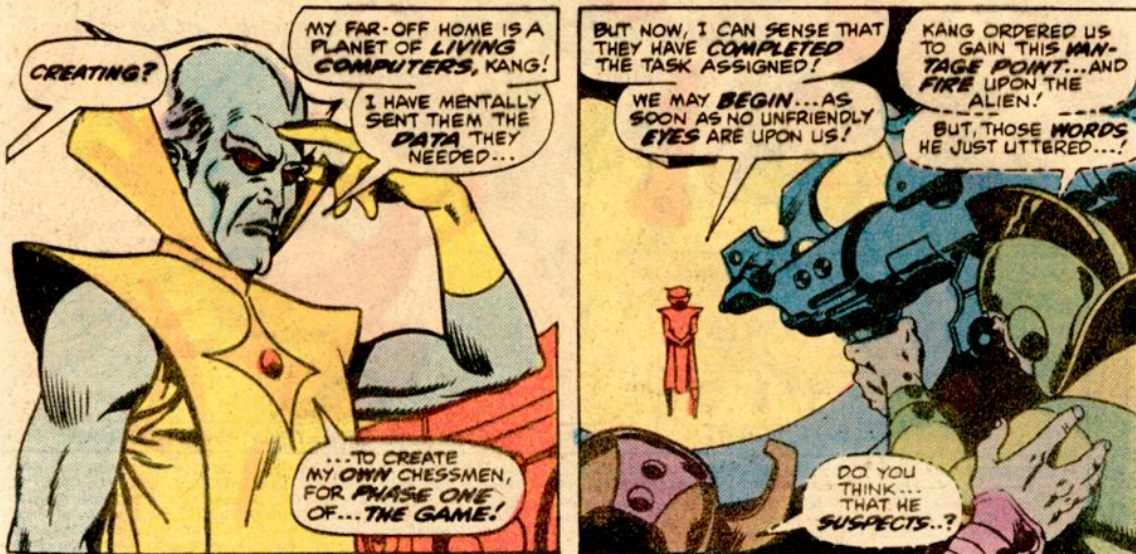
YOU... GRAND-MASTER! I ACCEPTED YOUR COSMIC CHALLENGE... AND CHOSE THE 20TH-CENTURY AVENGERS AS MY CHAMPIONS.\*

BUT NOW, YOU SEEK TO DELAY THE GAME'S BEGINNING... WHILE YOU GAZE OFF INTO THE REACHES OF SPACE!

I WAS DOING FAR MORE THAN MERE STAR-GAZING, EARTHLING!

YOUR PRIMITIVE TONGUE WOULD SAY I WAS... CREATING!

\* LAST ISSUE, NATCH! --STAN.



CREATING?

MY FAR-OFF HOME IS A PLANET OF LIVING COMPUTERS, KANG!

I HAVE MENTALLY SENT THEM THE DATA THEY NEEDED...

...TO CREATE MY OWN CHESSMEN, FOR PHASE ONE OF... THE GAME!

BUT NOW, I CAN SENSE THAT THEY HAVE COMPLETED THE TASK ASSIGNED!

WE MAY BEGIN... AS SOON AS NO UNFRIENDLY EYES ARE UPON US!

KANG ORDERED US TO GAIN THIS Vantage POINT... AND FIRE UPON THE ALIEN!

BUT, THOSE WORDS HE JUST LITTERED...!

DO YOU THINK... THAT HE SUSPECTS...?



THE GRAND-MASTER DOES NOT *SUSPECT!*

HE KNOWS!

YOU *DIS-APPOINT* ME, KANG...FOR I HAVE WAGERED THE *POWER OF LIFE AND DEATH* UPON THIS GAME!

DO YOU THINK I COULD OFFER TO BESTOW SUCH POWER UPON *YOU*...IF I WERE NOT MYSELF *IMMORTAL?*

THAT WAS *INDEED* FOOLISH, KANG!

YOU MIGHT HAVE DOOMED *YOURSELF*... AND THE ENTIRE *EARTH!*

AGREED, AVENGERS!

BUT, NEVER FEAR...*KANG* DOES NOT MAKE THE SAME MISTAKE *TWICE!*

*NOW*, ALIEN, WHAT OF THE THREE AVENGERS WE SENT BACK TO THEIR *OWN TIME*...

...THERE TO FACE THE FORCES YOU WOULD HURL *AGAINST* THEM?

I SHALL LET YOUR OWN *TIME-SCANNER* SHOW THEM TO YOU, EARTHLING!

WATCH AS THE HEROES CALLED *THOR, GOLIATH, AND CAPTAIN AMERICA* LOOK UP INTO THE 20TH-CENTURY SKY...

...TO WITNESS THE APPROACH OF THE *FOURTH AND FINAL* MEMBER OF THEIR TEAM...



**IRON MAN!**

THEN, THAT IS WHY THE GRAND-MASTER KEPT US WAITING HERE!

HE *KNEW* THAT ANOTHER AVENGER WOULD COME TO *JOIN* US!

BUT, *WHERE* WAS SHELLHEAD WHEN WE WERE SAVIN' TONY STARK FROM THE *GROWIN' MAN*?

THAT CAN'T CONCERN US NOW, CLINT!\*

\*NOT EVEN HIS FELLOW AVENGERS KNOW THAT STARK AND IRON MAN ARE ONE AND THE SAME!...5



WHAT'S UP, PEOPLE?

THAT'S HARD TO EXPLAIN IN 25 WORDS OR LESS, IRON MAN!

BUT, I'LL TRY...



...SO, IF WE DON'T DEFEAT THE GRAND-MASTER'S FOUR CHAMPIONS, NOT ONLY WILL THE FUTURE EARTH BE DESTROYED...

BUT, IT'LL BE AS IF... OUR PLANET NEVER EXISTED!

AVENGERS, LOOK THOU!

THE FOUR YOU TOLD ME ABOUT... THEY'RE APPEARING AGAIN!



NO, FOOL... IT IS ONLY OUR ASTRAL IMAGES WHICH YOU BEHOLD!

OUR REAL SELVES ARE EVEN NOW ELSEWHERE... PLOTTING YOUR DOWNFALL!

AND REST ASSURED, WE SHALL OVERCOME...

...EVEN THOUGH WE ARE ONLY EARTHMEN, LIKE YOURSELVES!

THEY SEEM STARTLED AT THAT NEWS, NIGHTHAWK!

LET ME EXPLAIN THE ORIGIN OF... THE SQUADRON SINISTER...!

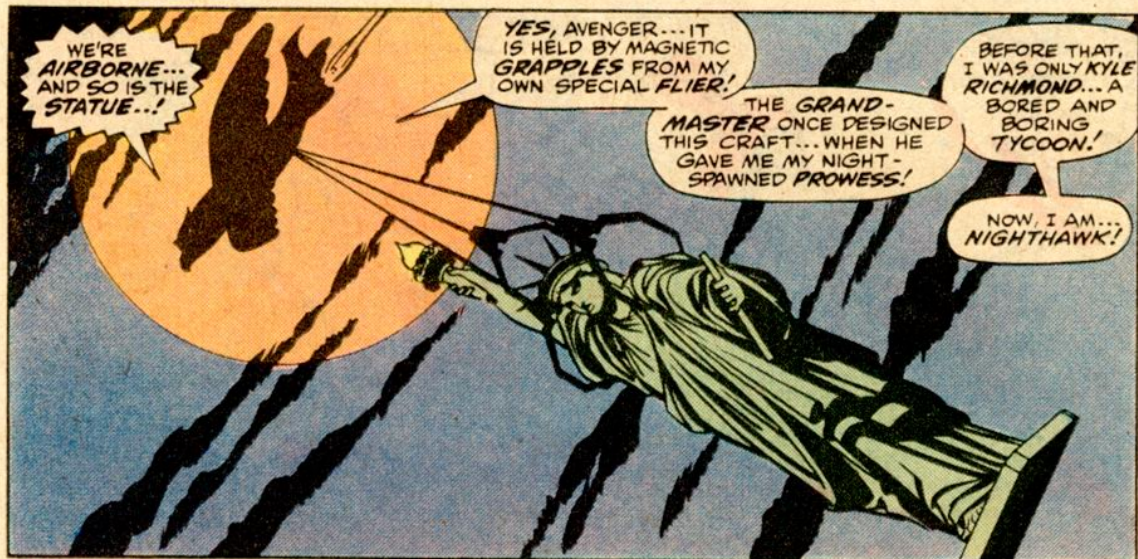
"...WE WERE ALL CREATED FOR THE SOLE PURPOSE OF DEFEATING YOU... THERE-BY WINNING THE COSMIC GAME FOR OUR MASTER!"

AND WITH  
THOSE WORDS,  
WE LEAVE YOU  
...FOR NOW!









WE'RE  
AIRBORNE...  
AND SO IS THE  
STATUE...!

YES, AVENGER...IT  
IS HELD BY MAGNETIC  
GRAPPLES FROM MY  
OWN SPECIAL FLIER!

THE GRAND-  
MASTER ONCE DESIGNED  
THIS CRAFT...WHEN HE  
GAVE ME MY NIGHT-  
SPAWNED PROWESS!

BEFORE THAT,  
I WAS ONLY KYLE  
RICHMOND...A  
BORED AND  
BORING  
TYCOON!

NOW, I AM...  
NIGHTHAWK!



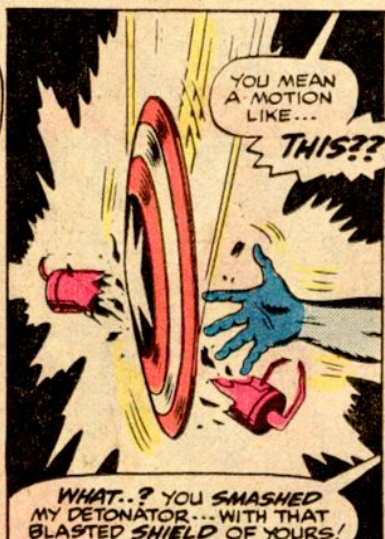
EVEN IF EARTH DIES, THE  
GRAND-MASTER WILL  
PROVIDE FOR ME...  
BECAUSE I HAVE  
WON FOR HIM!

NOT IF  
CAPTAIN  
AMERICA  
HAS ANYTHING  
TO SAY ABOUT  
IT!



TAKE ONE MORE  
STEP TOWARDS  
THOSE CONTROLS,  
AVENGER...

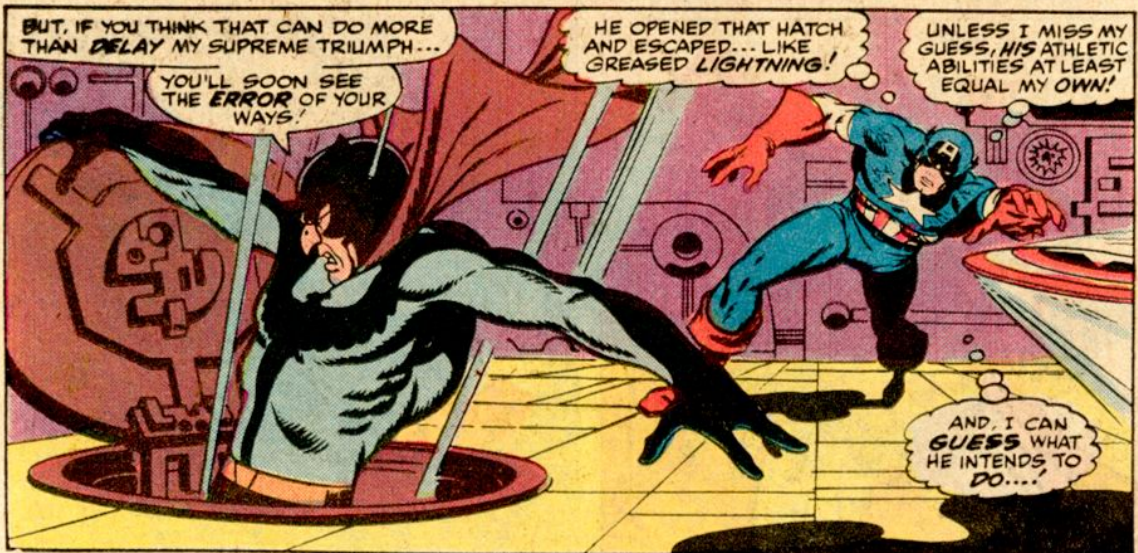
...AND I SHALL  
DESTROY  
THE STATUE,  
WITH A  
SINGLE  
MOTION!



YOU MEAN  
A MOTION  
LIKE...

THIS??

WHAT..? YOU SMASHED  
MY DETONATOR...WITH THAT  
BLASTED SHIELD OF YOURS!



BUT, IF YOU THINK THAT CAN DO MORE  
THAN DELAY MY SUPREME TRIUMPH...

YOU'LL SOON SEE  
THE ERROR OF YOUR  
WAYS!

HE OPENED THAT HATCH  
AND ESCAPED...LIKE  
GREASED LIGHTNING!

UNLESS I MISS MY  
GUESS, HIS ATHLETIC  
ABILITIES AT LEAST  
EQUAL MY OWN!

AND, I CAN  
GUESS  
WHAT  
HE INTENDS TO  
DO....



TO COMPLETE MY VICTORY, I NEED ONLY DESTROY MY CAPTURED PRIZE!

THAT WHICH IS OBLITERATED ... CAN HARDLY BE RESCUED!

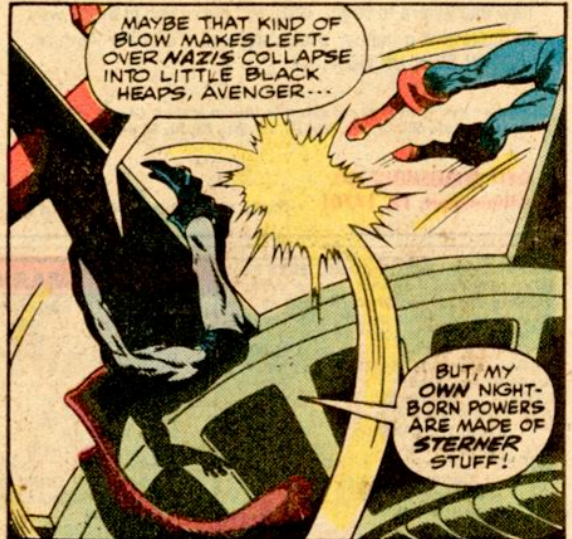
AND, WHEN THIS MANUAL LEVER SENDS THE STATUE CRASHING TO THE GROUND FAR BELOW...

ALL OF EARTH'S HOPES AND DREAMS WILL BE SMASHED, AS WELL!



THEN, WHAT SAY YOU JUST LEAVE WELL ENOUGH ALONE?

AAARRHH!



MAYBE THAT KIND OF BLOW MAKES LEFT-OVER NAZIS COLLAPSE INTO LITTLE BLACK HEAPS, AVENGER...

BUT, MY OWN NIGHT-BORN POWERS ARE MADE OF STERNER STUFF!

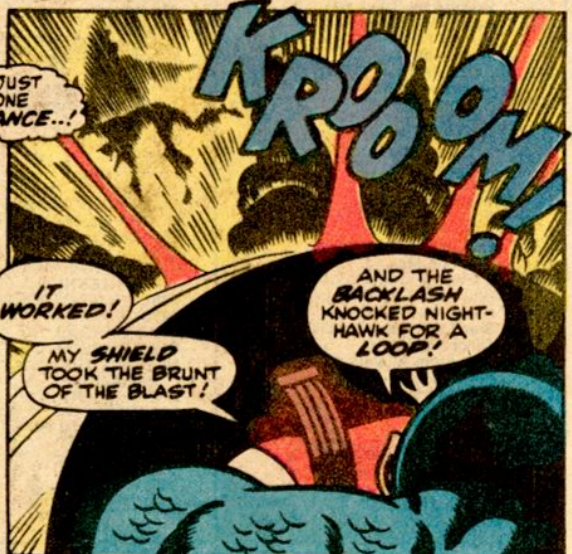


YET, EVIDENTLY, SO ARE YOU!

THUS, I'D BETTER FINISH YOU OFF WITH THIS DEADLY PELLET!

MUST BE SOME SORT OF EXPLOSIVE!

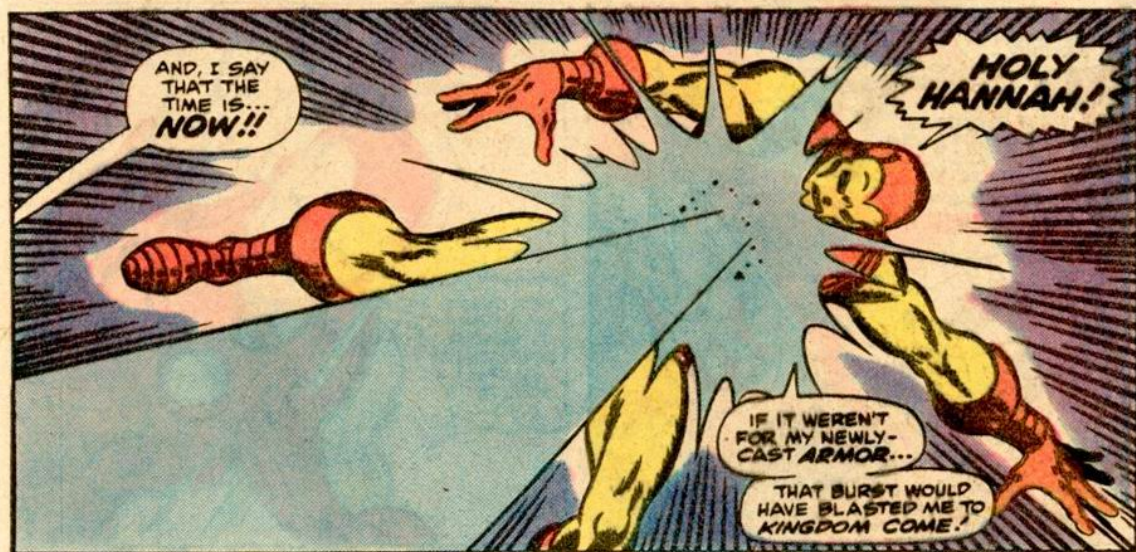
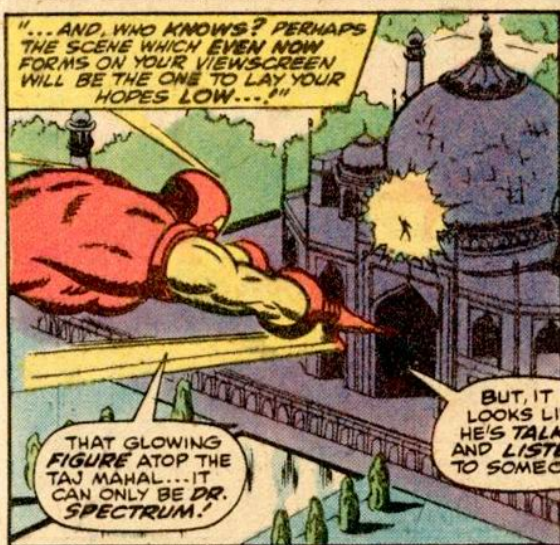
JUST ONE CHANCE...!



IT WORKED!

MY SHIELD TOOK THE BRUNT OF THE BLAST!

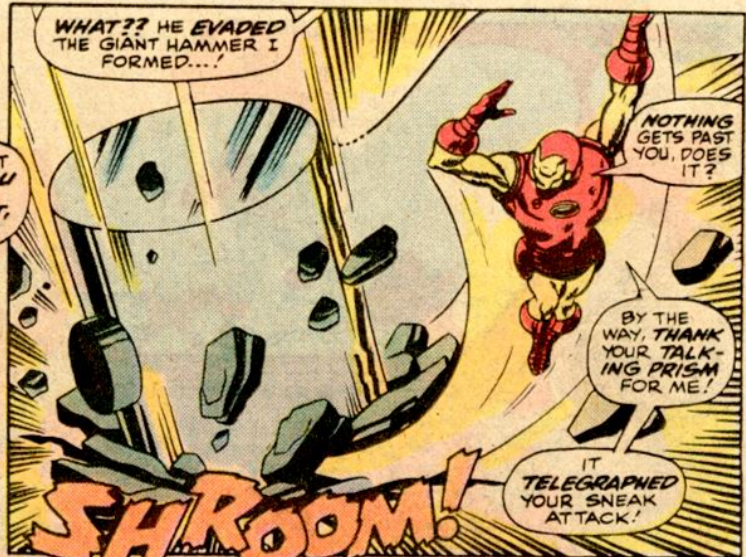
AND THE BACKLASH KNOCKED NIGHT-HAWK FOR A LOOP!



STRIKE  
AGAIN,  
MORTAL  
ENEMY  
OF  
WEAK-  
ENED!



I DON'T  
NEED YOU  
TO TELL  
ME THAT,  
PRISM!



WHAT?? HE EVADED  
THE GIANT HAMMER I  
FORMED...

NOTHING  
GETS PAST  
YOU, DOES  
IT?

BY THE  
WAY, THANK  
YOUR TALK-  
ING PRISM  
FOR ME!

IT  
TELEGRAPHED  
YOUR SNEAK  
ATTACK!

SHROOM!



DOESN'T DO  
MUCH FOR MY EGO  
THOUGH, TO KNOW  
THAT THE BRAINS  
BEHIND YOUR LITTLE  
TEAM IS AN  
INANIMATE  
OBJECT!

STILL, IF I  
CAN JUST TAKE  
OUT THE MAN  
WHO HOLDS  
THE PRISM...

THE GRAND-  
MASTER DESIGNED  
THE PRISM TO PRO-  
TECT ME FROM ALL  
HARM, IRON MAN!

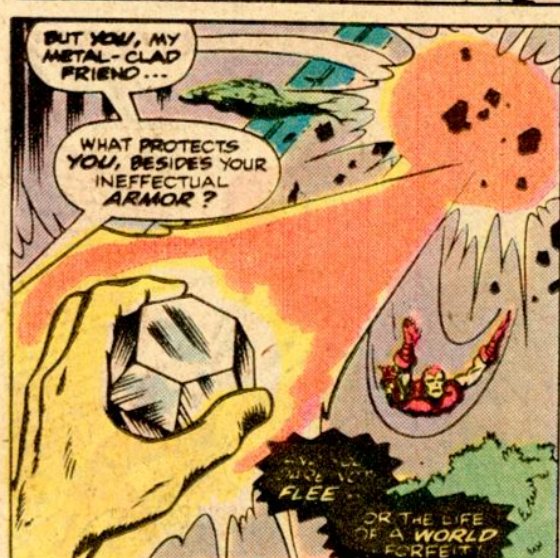
NOTHING GETS  
THRU ITS POLY-  
CHROMATIC  
SHIELD!

NOTHING!

WHROOSH!

HE MAY  
JUST BE  
RIGHT!

MIGHT AS WELL  
USE A BLOWGUN,  
AS MY REPULSOR  
RAYS!



BUT YOU, MY METAL-CLAD  
FRIEND...

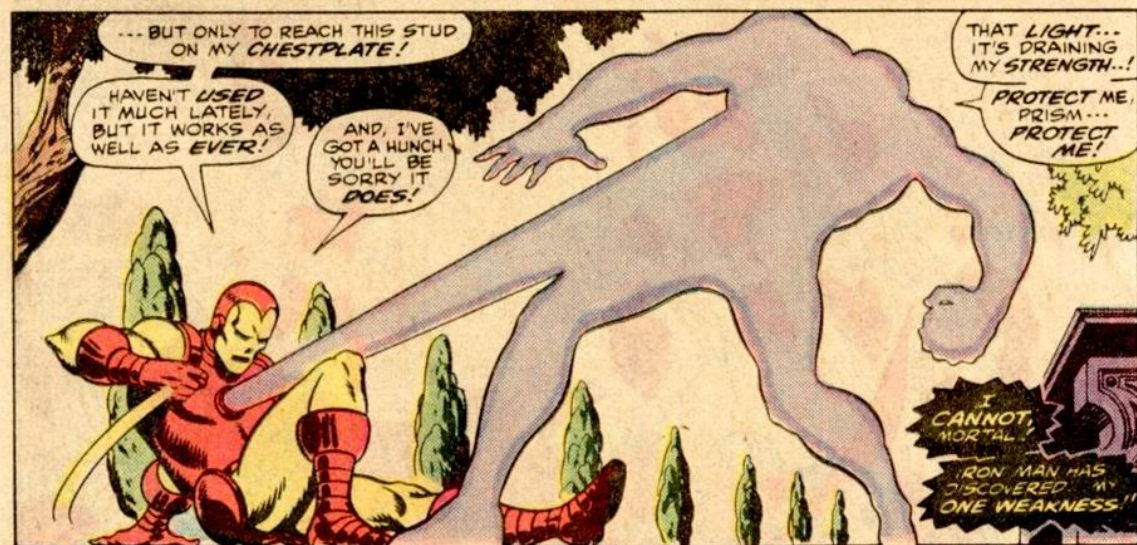
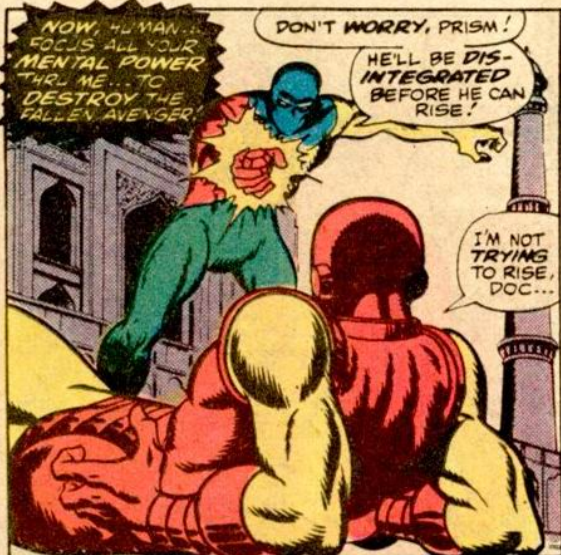
WHAT PROTECTS  
YOU, BESIDES YOUR  
INEFFECTUAL  
ARMOR?

FLEE  
OR THE LIFE  
OF A WORLD  
FORFEIT!

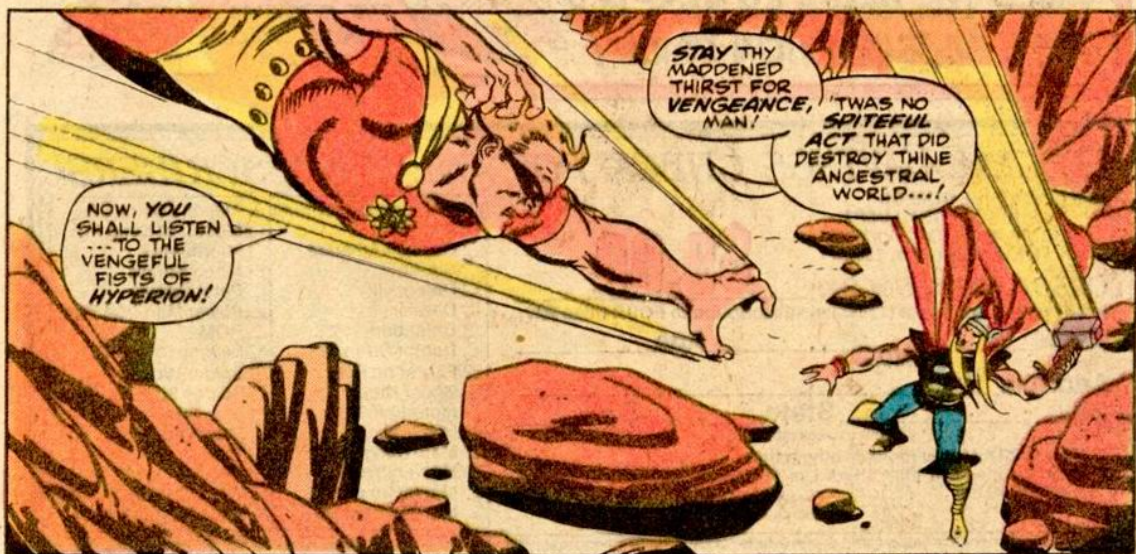


THAT LONG-WINDED  
HUNK OF CRYSTAL  
JUST SUMMED UP  
THE SITUATION IN  
A NUTSHELL!

YET, THERE  
WAS SOME-  
THING DR.  
SPECTRUM  
SAID A  
MINUTE  
AGO...











WHAT DO YOU M...?

WAIT!!

THE HAMMER IS  
WHIRLING  
AROUND ME...

AND SOMETHING  
...IS HAPPENING  
TO ME...!

GOING  
FASTER...  
**FASTER..**



I... I'M TRAPPED...  
INSIDE A BUBBLE  
FORMED OF... GLAZED  
SAND!

BUT, THAT BE  
NOT THE WAY  
OF THOR,  
HYPERION!

AND, I'M  
SMALL...  
TINY ENOUGH  
FOR YOU TO  
CRUSH WITH  
ONE HAND!

RATHER,  
HEREIN  
SHALT THOU  
REMAIN...

...TILL THOU DOST  
LEARN THE FOLLY  
OF A LIFE LIVED ONLY  
FOR VENGEANCE...!



HE DID IT!  
THOR BEAT  
HIM!

SOMEHOW, HIS HAMMER DUPLI-  
CATED... AND REVERSED... THE  
ATOMIC PROCESS THAT GAVE  
HYPERION HIS POWERS!

NOW, ONLY ONE FOE  
REMAINS... AND THE  
EARTH IS SAFE!

THEN, LET  
US NOT REJOICE,  
AVENGERS...

...UNTIL  
THAT FINAL  
BATTLE IS  
WON!

LOOK!  
THERE ON THE  
SCREEN...!

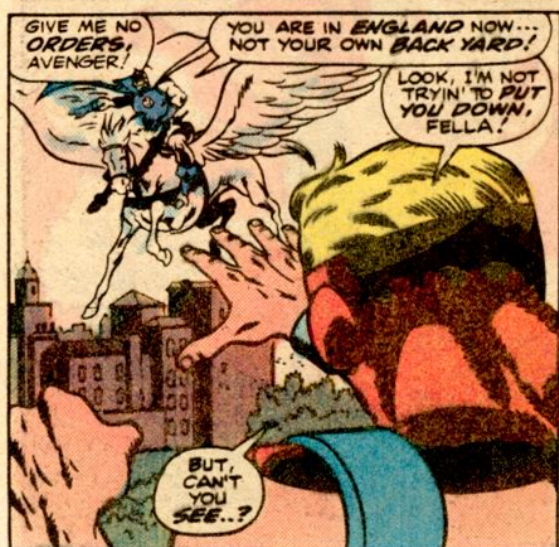


...I'M WARNIN'  
YOU, BUDDY...  
FLAKE OFF,  
OR ELSE!

IT'S  
GOLIATH...  
IN THE SHADOW  
OF BIG BEN!

BUT, WHO  
IS THE  
TARGET  
OF HIS  
ANGER?

IT SEEMS NOT TO  
BE ONE OF THE SQUAD-  
RON SINISTER...!



GIVE ME NO  
ORDERS,  
AVENGER!

YOU ARE IN ENGLAND NOW...  
NOT YOUR OWN BACK YARD!

LOOK, I'M NOT  
TRYIN' TO PUT  
YOU DOWN,  
FELLA!

BUT,  
CAN'T  
YOU  
SEE...?



I SEE ONLY THAT  
MY OFFER OF HELP  
HAS BEEN SPURNED!

BUT DON'T  
WORRY,  
GIANT...

YOU NEEDN'T  
TELL THE  
BLACK KNIGHT  
TWICE!



