

AVENGERS

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80
SEPT

THE AVENGERS

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MARVEL
COMICS
GROUP



NOW
LOBO--
ATTACK!

THE
COMING
OF
RED WOLF!

AAARRRRRRHHH

AVENGERS--
WE HAVE BEEN
DECEIVED!

'TIS SAID A
MAN AND WOLF
DO LURK NEARBY--
BUT I SEE
THEM NOT!!



THE MIGHTY AVENGERS!

**RICH MAN---
POOR MAN---
BEGGAR MAN---**



-- THIEF!



**DOCTOR--
LAWYER--**



-- INDIAN CHIEF!!



**THE
COMING
OF
RED
WOLF!**



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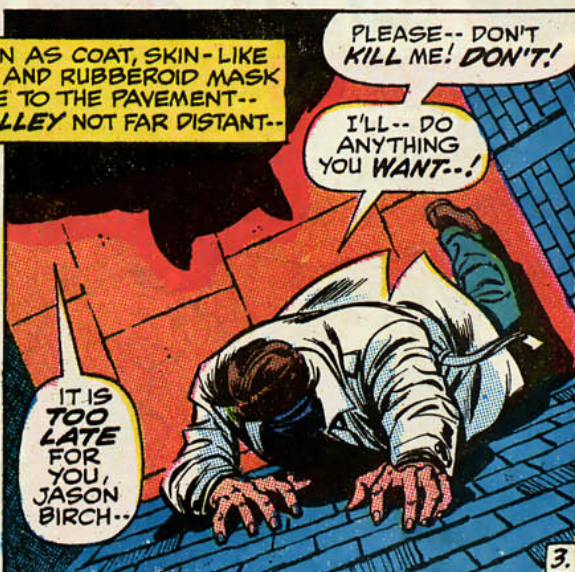
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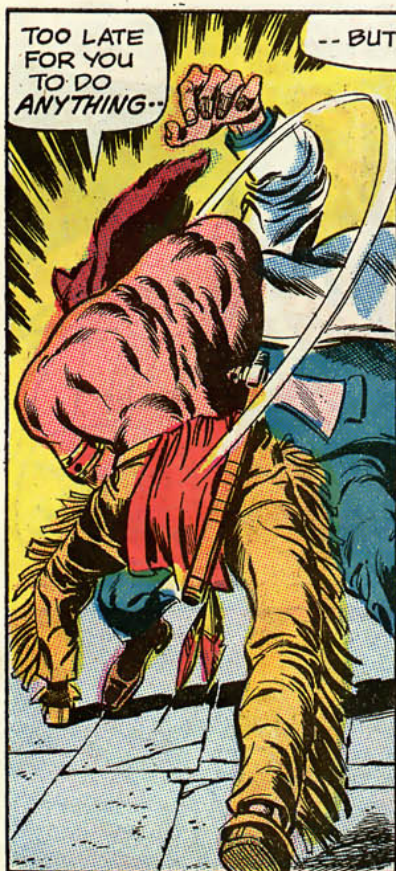
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TOO LATE
FOR YOU
TO DO
ANYTHING--

-- BUT DIE!!



NO!
NOOOOO!

WHAT? A
MAN-- PASSING
THRU THE VERY
PAVEMENT
BENEATH MY
FEET!

BUT, YOU WILL
NOT SAVE YOUR
FRIEND'S TREACHER-
OUS LIFE!



THAT
ONE IS
HARDLY
MY FRIEND--



YET, A HUMAN LIFE IS
NOT TO BE LIGHTLY TAKEN--

-- AS I,
WHO AM NOT
HUMAN, SHOULD
WELL KNOW!

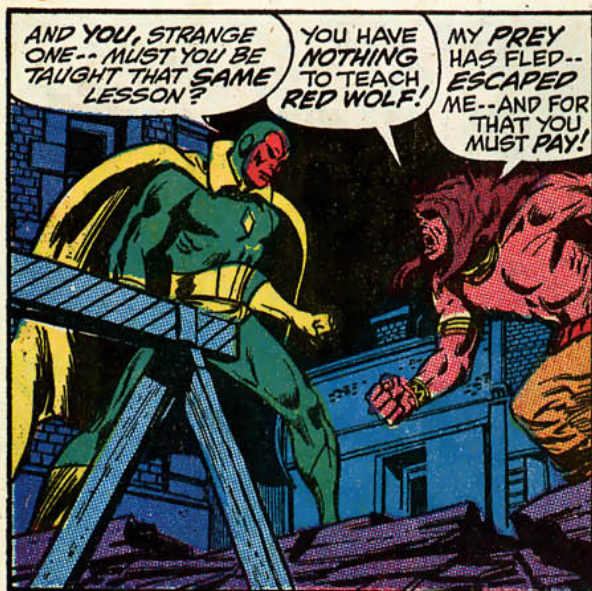


RRRRRRRR

AND NOW
--THE MASKED
ONE'S BEAST
WOULD
ATTACK ME!



HE MUST LEARN THAT FANG
AND CLAW ARE USELESS--
AGAINST ONE WHOSE FRAME
CAN BE MADE AS HARD AS
DIAMOND!



AND YOU, STRANGE ONE-- MUST YOU BE TAUGHT THAT SAME LESSON?

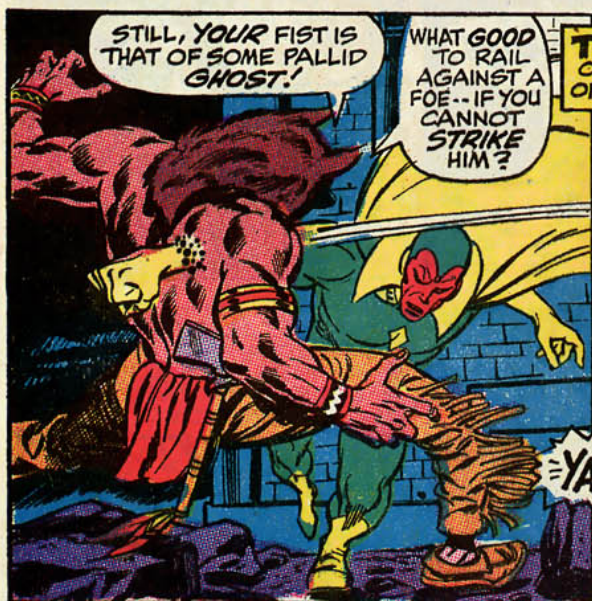
YOU HAVE NOTHING TO TEACH RED WOLF!

MY PREY HAS FLED-- ESCAPED ME-- AND FOR THAT YOU MUST PAY!



WHAT? MY FIST PASSES THRU YOU-- AS YOU PASSED THRU STONE AND EARTH!

BECAUSE IT WAS NOT MY WISH TO BREAK YOUR HAND!



STILL, YOUR FIST IS THAT OF SOME PALLID GHOST!

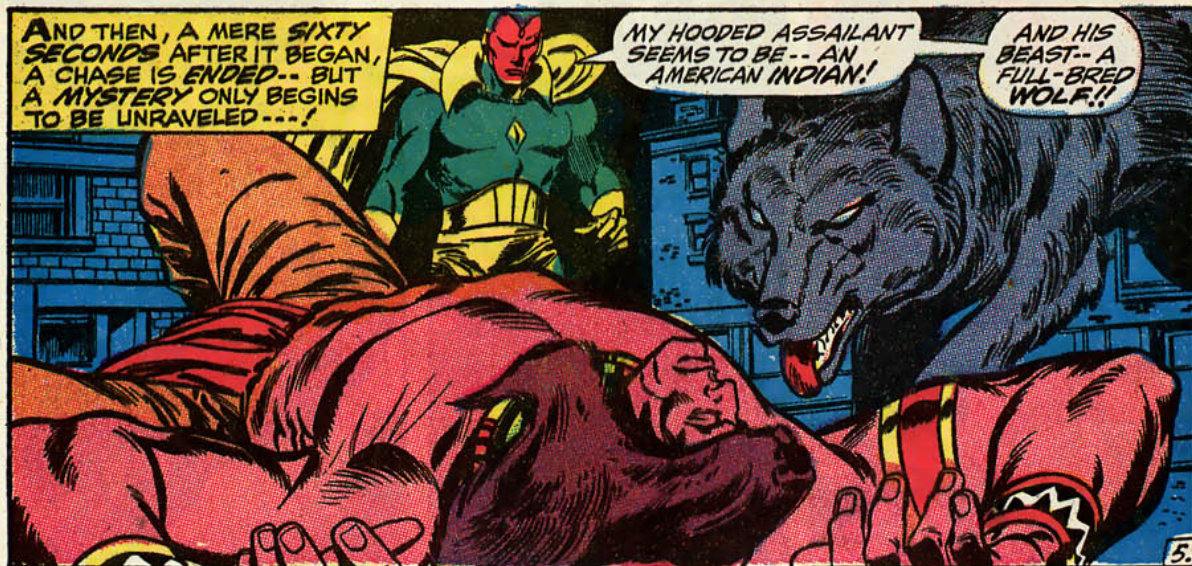
WHAT GOOD TO RAIL AGAINST A FOE-- IF YOU CANNOT STRIKE HIM?

THE ANDROID AVENGER'S ONLY ANSWER IS A BURST OF MENTAL CONCENTRATION--

YAARRHH!



-- ONLY SLIGHTLY SOLIDIFYING HIS GLOVED FIST-- YET THAT IS EASILY ENOUGH--



AND THEN, A MERE SIXTY SECONDS AFTER IT BEGAN, A CHASE IS ENDED-- BUT A MYSTERY ONLY BEGINS TO BE UNRAVELED--

MY HOODED ASSAILANT SEEMS TO BE-- AN AMERICAN INDIAN!

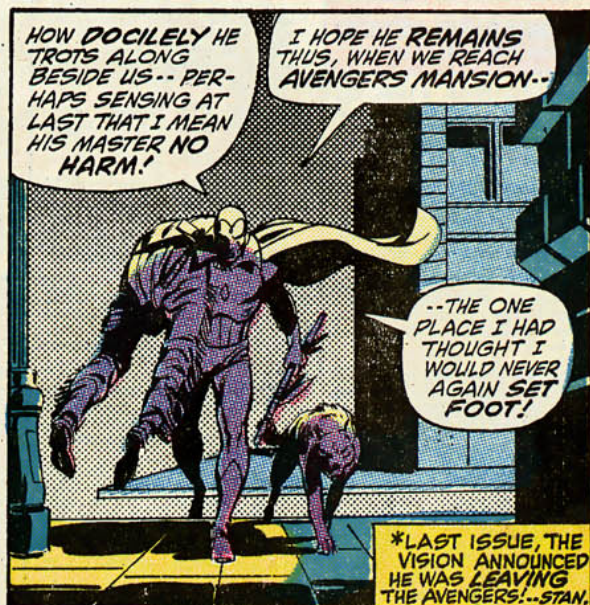
AND HIS BEAST-- A FULL-BRED WOLF!!



THIS MATTER BEARS
LOOKING INTO--
WITHOUT DELAY!

NOR, IT APPEARS, SHALL
I HAVE TROUBLE PER-
SUADING THE MAN'S
SNARLING ALLY TO
ACCOMPANY US!

RRR

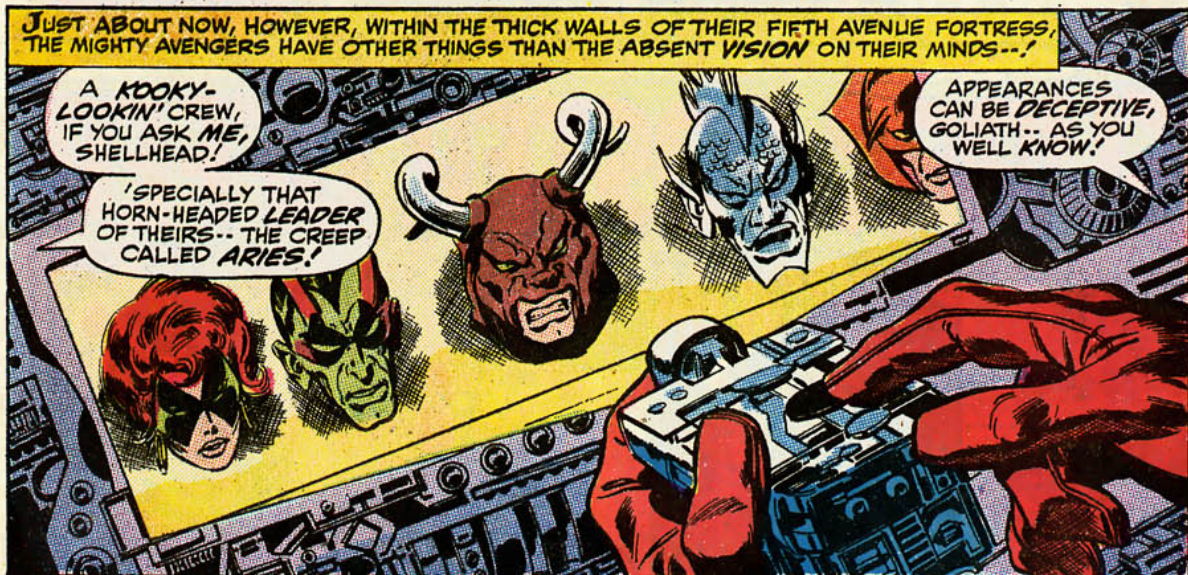


HOW DOCILELY HE
TLOTS ALONG
BESIDE US-- PER-
HAPS SENSING AT
LAST THAT I MEAN
HIS MASTER NO
HARM!

I HOPE HE REMAINS
THUS, WHEN WE REACH
AVENGERS MANSION--

--THE ONE
PLACE I HAD
THOUGHT I
WOULD NEVER
AGAIN SET
FOOT!

*LAST ISSUE, THE
VISION ANNOUNCED
HE WAS LEAVING
THE AVENGERS!--STAN.



A KOOKY-
LOOKIN' CREW,
IF YOU ASK ME,
SHELLHEAD!

'SPECIALLY THAT
HORN-HEADED LEADER
OF THEIRS-- THE CREEP
CALLED ARIES!

APPEARANCES
CAN BE DECEPTIVE,
GOLIATH-- AS YOU
WELL KNOW!



AFTER ALL, YOU
ARE ONE OF THOSE
WHO ALL BUT LOST
THEIR LIVES IN
BATTLE WITH
THE GROUP
CALLED--
ZODIAC!

BUT NOW, REPORTS ARE
SEEPING IN THAT THEY'VE
RE-FORMED
THEIR RANKS
--AND ARE
PLANNING
SOME-
THING
BIG!

AND SUCH
MAY BE THEIR
POWER...
THAT NONE BUT
THE AVENGERS
MAY HOPE TO
STOP THEM!

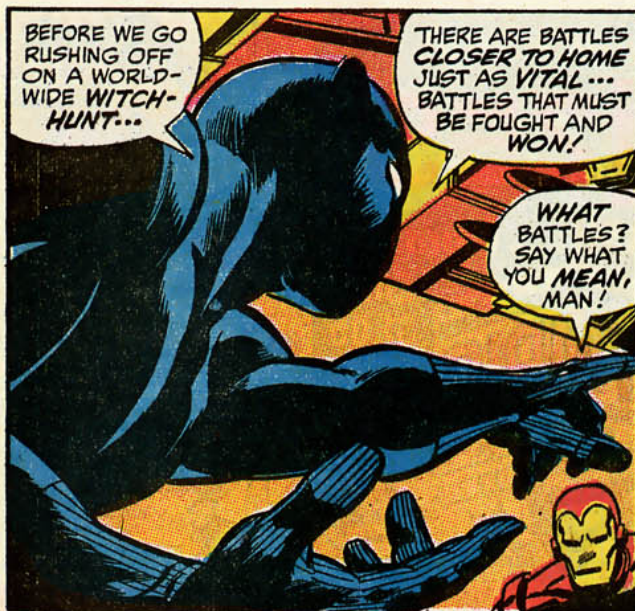


THEN I'M SURE WE ALL
AGREE, IRON MAN,
THAT WE MUST CANCEL
ALL OTHER ACTIVITIES
--AND TRACK THEM
DOWN BEFORE IT'S
TOO LATE!

I DO NOT
AGREE,
CAP!

WHAT
SAYEST
THOU,
PANTHER?

CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE



BEFORE WE GO RUSHING OFF ON A WORLD-WIDE WITCH-HUNT...

THERE ARE BATTLES CLOSER TO HOME JUST AS VITAL... BATTLES THAT MUST BE FOUGHT AND WON!

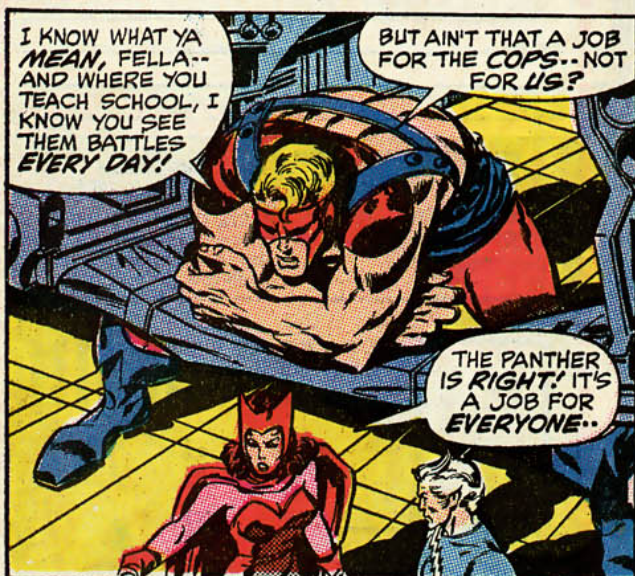
WHAT BATTLES? SAY WHAT YOU MEAN, MAN!



I'M TALKING ABOUT ORGANIZED CRIME, AVENGER! NO GAUDY MASKS--NO COLORFUL COSTUMES--

--JUST A CREEPING, INSIDIOUS EVIL-- WHICH CORRUPTS EVERYTHING AND EVERYBODY IT TOUCHES!

RIGHT NOW, IT'S WAGING BATTLES EVERY DAY FOR THE MINDS--THE BODIES--THE VERY SOULS OF KIDS LIKE THE ONES I TEACH-- AND IT MUST NOT WIN!



I KNOW WHAT YA MEAN, FELLA-- AND WHERE YOU TEACH SCHOOL, I KNOW YOU SEE THEM BATTLES EVERY DAY!

BUT AIN'T THAT A JOB FOR THE COPS--NOT FOR US?

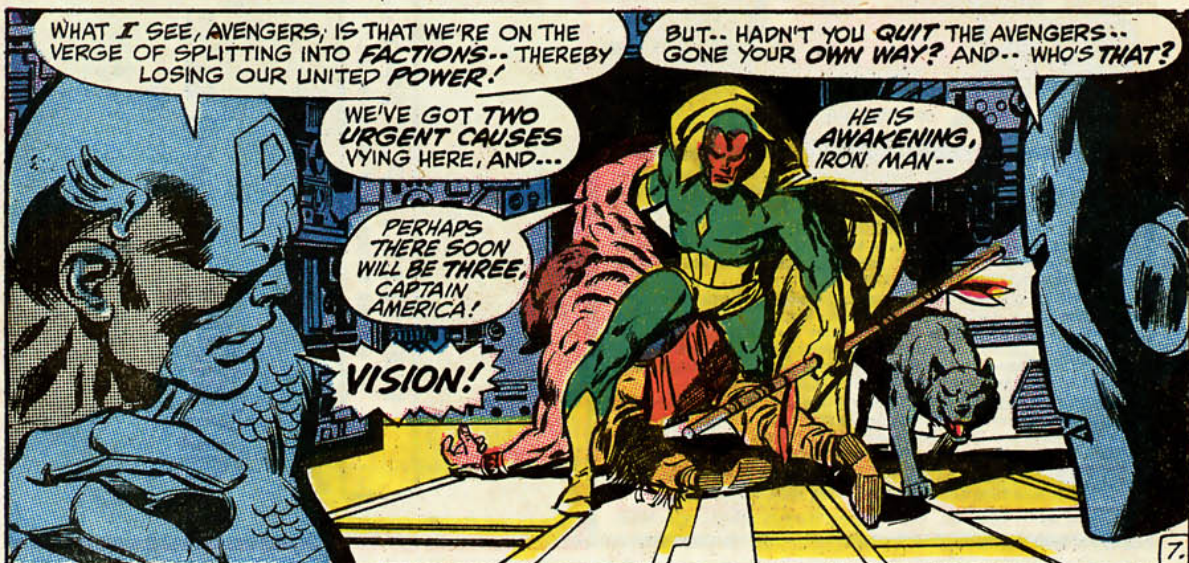
THE PANTHER IS RIGHT! IT'S A JOB FOR EVERYONE..



--OR ARE YOU SO HIGH UP THAT YOU DON'T CARE ABOUT SUCH THINGS ANY LONGER?

COME OFF IT, WITCHIE! THAT AIN'T WHAT I MEANT!

DON'TCHA SEE, I ONLY--



WHAT I SEE, AVENGERS, IS THAT WE'RE ON THE VERGE OF SPLITTING INTO FACTIONS-- THEREBY LOSING OUR UNITED POWER!

BUT-- HADN'T YOU QUIT THE AVENGERS-- GONE YOUR OWN WAY? AND-- WHO'S THAT?

WE'VE GOT TWO URGENT CAUSES VYING HERE, AND...

PERHAPS THERE SOON WILL BE THREE, CAPTAIN AMERICA!

VISION!

HE IS AWAKENING, IRON MAN--



SOON, HE
MAY ANSWER
BOTH YOUR
QUESTIONS--
AND MINE!

RED WOLF
SHALL ANSWER
-- NOTHING,
INTERLOPER!

YOU HAVE
KEPT ME FROM
THE MISSION
FOR WHICH I WAS
BORN-- THE MISSION
I CROSSED A
CONTINENT
TO FULFILL!

I HAD
BUSINESS
WITH THE MAN
YOU TOOK FROM
ME-- DEADLY
BUSINESS!



I SEE NOW THAT YOU
ARE ONE OF THE FAR-
FAMED AVENGERS!

BUT THAT WILL NOT
SAVE YOU FROM ME!
NOTHING WILL!

MISTER, I
DON'T KNOW
WHO YOU ARE
BEHIND THAT
WOLF-GARB--

BUT THE
MAN ISN'T BORN
THAT CAN LAY
A HAND ON THE
VISION AGAINST
HIS WILL!



SO, WHY NOT
SIMMER DOWN--
AND TELL US YOUR
SIDE OF WHATEVER
HAPPENED BETWEEN
YOU TWO!

AY! IF THERE HATH
BEEN INJUSTICE
DONE, WE SHALL
SET IT ARIGHT!

THAT MAY BE
BEYOND EVEN
YOUR POWERS,
AVENGERS!

AND YET--
YES, I SHALL
TELL YOU--
FROM THE VERY
BEGINNING!

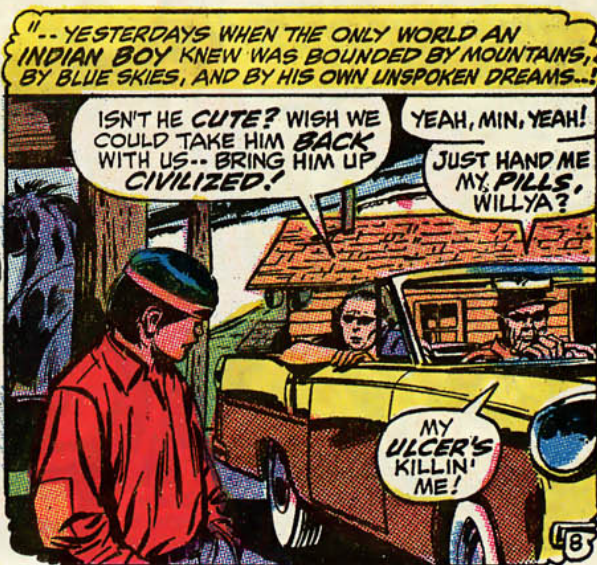


"AND SO, I SPEAK NOT OF TONIGHT,
OR OF GUNS FIRED IN ALLEYWAYS--
BUT OF CERTAIN YESTERDAYS, AND
OF WORDS SPOKEN IN UNTHINKING
IGNORANCE--!"

OH, LOOK,
PHIL-- ISN'T
THIS QUANT?

I SEEN BETTER
BACK IN
PHOENIX,
MIN!

CLEANER,
TOO!



"-- YESTERDAYS WHEN THE ONLY WORLD AN
INDIAN BOY KNEW WAS BOUNDED BY MOUNTAINS,
BY BLUE SKIES, AND BY HIS OWN UNSPOKEN DREAMS--!"

ISN'T HE CUTE? WISH WE
COULD TAKE HIM BACK
WITH US-- BRING HIM UP
CIVILIZED!

YEAH, MIN, YEAH!

JUST HAND ME
MY PILLS,
WILLYA?

MY
ULCER'S
KILLIN'
ME!



WHAT FOOLS
THE ANGLOS ARE!*

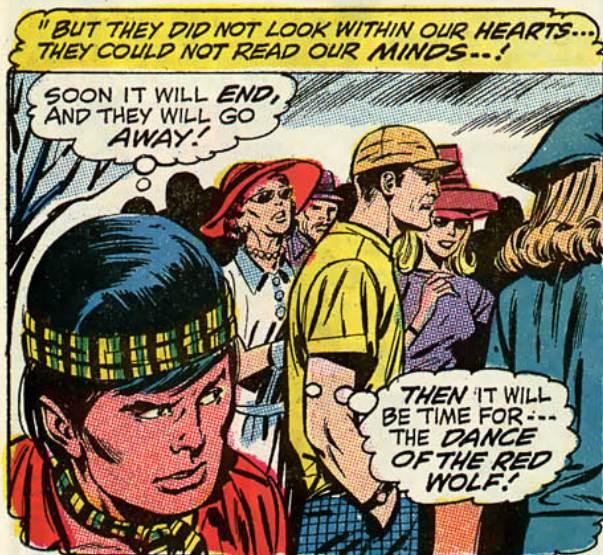
THEY THINK *THEIR*
WAY IS THE *ONLY* WAY--
THEIR LAW, THE *ONLY*
LAW!

THEY RUSH
ACROSS THE
DESERT IN
THEIR BIG
CARS, AND
THEY SEE
NOTHING!

*ANGLOS = NON-INDIANS.
--STAN



"OH, THE ANGLOS
WATCHED ALL
THE WAR
DANCES--THE
ONES DONE
ESPECIALLY
FOR THEM--



"BUT THEY DID NOT LOOK WITHIN OUR HEARTS...
THEY COULD NOT READ OUR MINDS--!"

SOON IT WILL END,
AND THEY WILL GO
AWAY!

THEN IT WILL
BE TIME FOR--
THE DANCE
OF THE RED
WOLF!



"AND, THAT VERY NIGHT, I WATCHED AGAIN
FROM HIDING THE ONE DANCE THAT NO WHITE
MAN WOULD EVER SEE--"

"I WATCHED THE DANCE, AND
HEARD THE SONGS--SONGS
THAT EVER TOLD THE SAME
STORY--!"

"THEY TOLD OF RED WOLF--
THE WARRIOR WHO CAME FROM
THE SKY IN DAYS OF OLD TO
LEAD THE PEOPLE--!"



*THE PEOPLE--
NAME GIVEN BY
SOME INDIAN TRIBES
TO THEMSELVES, AS OPPOSED
TO ALL OTHER TRIBES. --STAN.



"AND THEY TOLD HOW HE WOULD
COME AGAIN, WHEN THE NEED
OF THE PEOPLE WAS GREAT-
EST-- AND HOW NONE WOULD
STAND AGAINST HIM--!"

CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE

"THE YEARS FLOWED BY LIKE WATER-- THE YOUNG INDIAN GREW TO MANHOOD... AND AT LAST HE PUT ASIDE THE STUFF OF LEGENDS...!"

THERE... IS NO RED WOLF!

IF THERE WAS... HE WOULD HAVE ANSWERED OUR PRAYERS... LONG MOONS AGO!

"FOR, ALWAYS IT WAS A WHITE MAN'S WORLD..."

"AND SOME OF THEM WERE GOOD AND KIND..."

"...WHILE OTHERS WERE EVIL...!"

I WANT THIS LAND, I TELL YOU... AND CORNELIUS VAN LUNT ALWAYS GETS WHAT HE WANTS!

BETTER SELL IT TO ME... AND SAVE YOURSELF A LOT OF TROUBLE!

CAN WE SELL THE SKY ABOVE... THE AIR WE BREATHE?

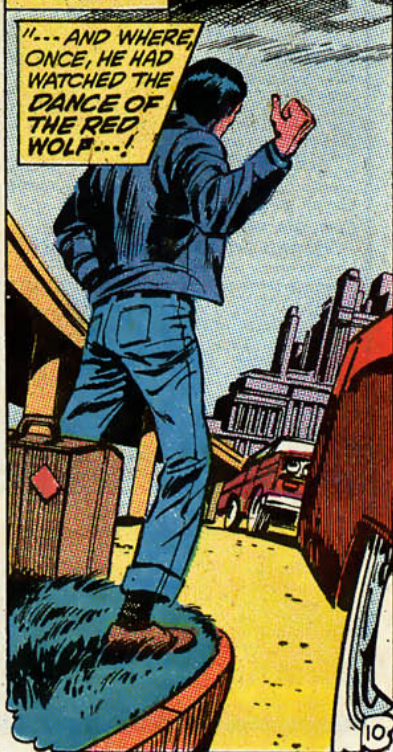
HERE WE WERE BORN... HERE WE SHALL DIE!

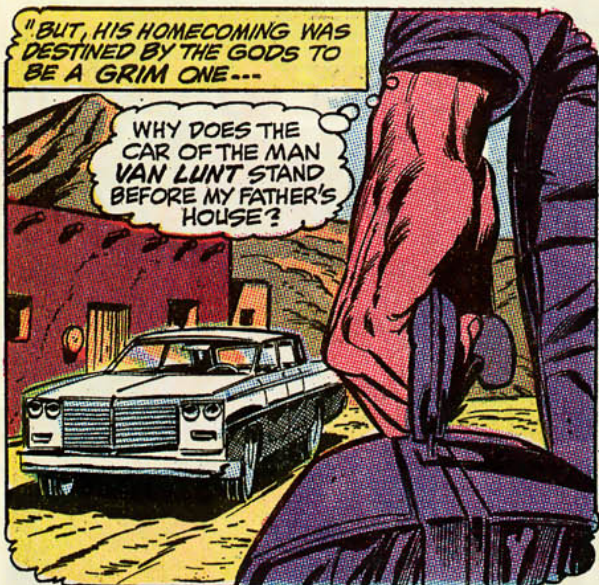
"THAT WAS TRUE, FOR THEM... BUT THE YOUTH'S SOUL WAS MORE RESTLESS... AND HE WAS NEARLY BURIED HALF A WORLD AWAY...!"

"WHEN HIS WOUNDS HEALED, HE WORKED MANY WEEKS ATOP THE STEEL GIRDERS OF NEW YORK... WHERE THE DEATH-TAUNTING MOHAWKS DANCE...!"

"YET ALWAYS THE DESERT CALLED HIM HOME... THE SUN-PARCHED DESERT, WHERE A DROP OF WATER IS MORE PRECIOUS THAN A SACK OF GOLD..."

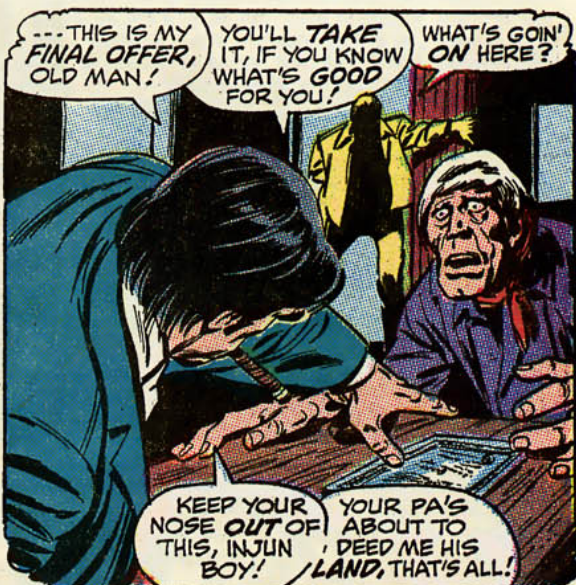
"...AND WHERE, ONCE, HE HAD WATCHED THE DANCE OF THE RED WOLF...!"





"BUT, HIS HOMECOMING WAS DESTINED BY THE GODS TO BE A GRIM ONE--"

WHY DOES THE CAR OF THE MAN VAN LUNT STAND BEFORE MY FATHER'S HOUSE?



---THIS IS MY FINAL OFFER, OLD MAN!

YOU'LL TAKE IT, IF YOU KNOW WHAT'S GOOD FOR YOU!

WHAT'S GOIN' ON HERE?

KEEP YOUR NOSE OUT OF THIS, INJUN BOY!

YOUR PA'S ABOUT TO DEED ME HIS LAND, THAT'S ALL!



YOU ROTTEN LIAR!

LET ME TAKE CARE'A THIS CREEP, BOSS!

NO, JASON-- NOT HERE-- NOT NOW!

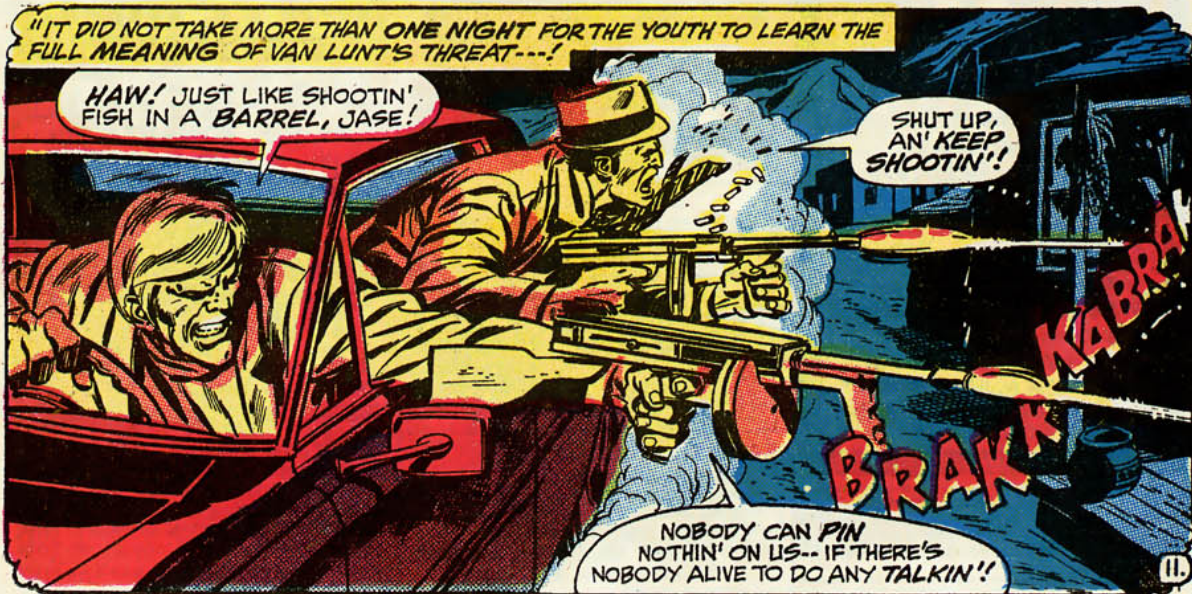
GET OUT OF HERE-- BEFORE I KILL YOU!



WE'RE LEAVING, BOY-- BUT HEAR ME OUT!

YOU MADE MY MAN JASON BIRCH HERE AWFULLY MAD--

AND I CAN'T BE HELD RESPONSIBLE FOR ANYTHING HE MIGHT DO-- SOME-TIME WHEN I'M NOT AROUND TO PROTECT YOU!



"IT DID NOT TAKE MORE THAN ONE NIGHT FOR THE YOUTH TO LEARN THE FULL MEANING OF VAN LUNT'S THREAT--"

HAW! JUST LIKE SHOOTIN' FISH IN A BARREL, JASE!

SHUT UP, AN' KEEP SHOOTIN'!!

NOBODY CAN PIN NOTHIN' ON US-- IF THERE'S NOBODY ALIVE TO DO ANY TALKIN'!

KABRA
BRAKK

"BUT, THE DEADLY HAIL OF BULLETS HAD NOT DONE ALL ITS WORK-- FOR, WITHIN THE HOUSE, ONE FIGURE STILL STIRRED, IF ONLY TO CRY OUT IN ANGUISH--"

MOTHER!
FATHER--!

OH NO--
NNOOOO!

THEY ARE DEAD--
BOTH DEAD!

AND WHO SHALL AVENGE
THEIR DEATHS-- FOR THEY ARE
ONLY INDIANS-- ONLY
INDIANS!

WHERE ARE YOU
NOW, RED WOLF--
NOW THAT YOUR
PEOPLE HAVE NEED
OF YOU?

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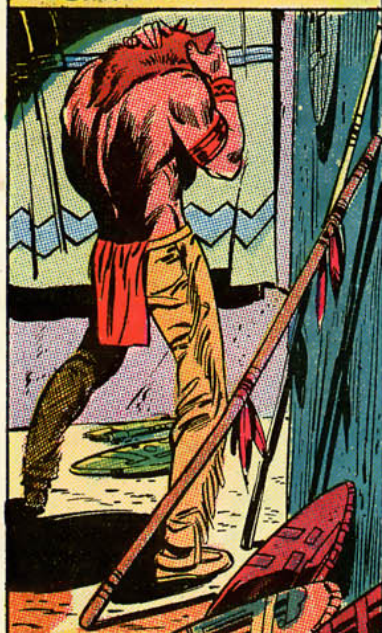
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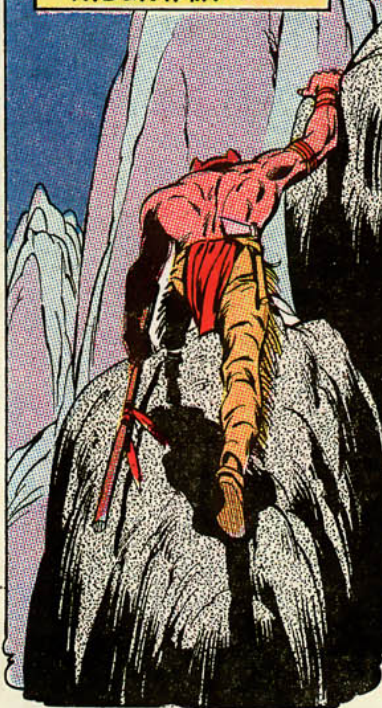
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"NEXT, HALF FEVERISH WITH A FLESH WOUND FROM A FLYING BULLET, THE YOUTH STAGGERED TO A CEREMONIAL HOGAN NEARBY--"

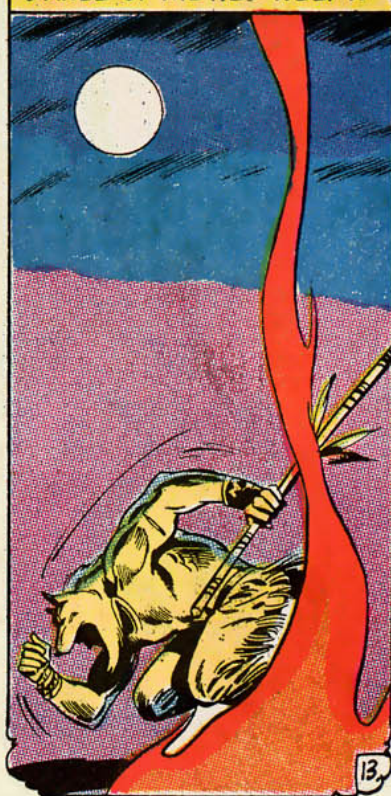


"FOR, THERE WERE KEPT THE MASKS AND MEMORIES OF BYGONE GLORIES--!"

"THEN, EVEN AS HIS WOUND THROBBED, HE STRUGGLED SILENTLY-- HALTINGLY-- UP THE PEOPLE'S SACRED MOUNTAIN--"



"... WHERE HE DANCED ALONE, AS IF IN A TRANCE-- THE DANCE OF THE RED WOLF--!"



13

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"AND SUDDENLY, HE SAW-- OR THOUGHT HE SAW--

THE FLAMES-- THEY LEAP, AND WRITHE-- LIKE A LIVING THING!

AND, WITHIN THE FIRE-- SOMETHING STIRS!



A MAN-- WITH THE HEAD OF A GREAT WOLF!

RED WOLF HAS COME ONCE MORE-- TO LEAD THE PEOPLE!

AY, YOUTH-- RED WOLF HAS RETURNED--



-- YET, I SHALL NOT AVENGE THE WRONG DONE TO YOU THIS NIGHT!

WHAT? WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

HAVE YOU COME, THEN, MERELY TO MOCK-- TO MAKE SPORT OF MY PRAYER?



NO, YOUTH-- BUT MERELY TO TELL YOU THAT WHICH YOU HAVE NEVER KNOWN!

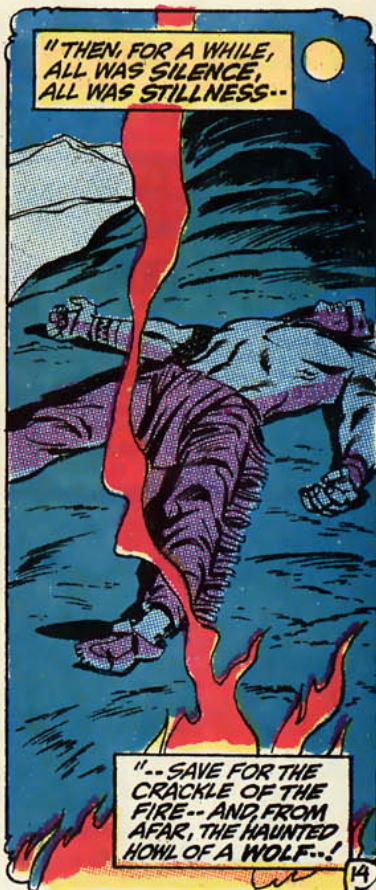
THE RED WOLF WHO SHALL ARISE THIS NIGHT LIVES NOT IN THE SKY-- NOT IN THE HOLLOW OF THE MOON--

-- BUT IN THE HEART OF ONE OF THE PEOPLE!

IN YOU, YOUNG ONE!



YOU ARE-- RED WOLF!



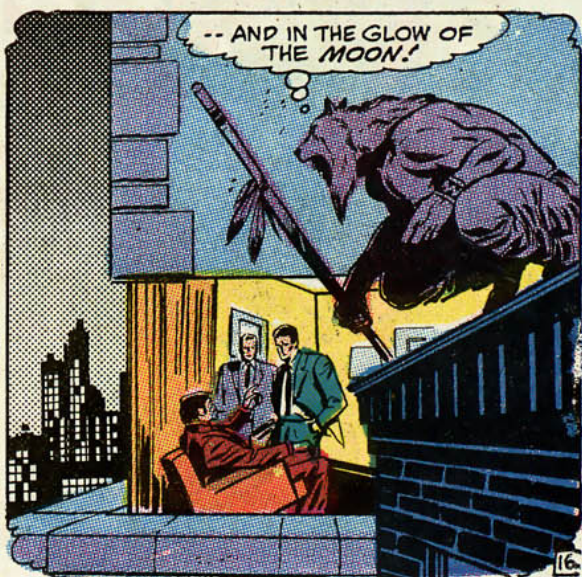
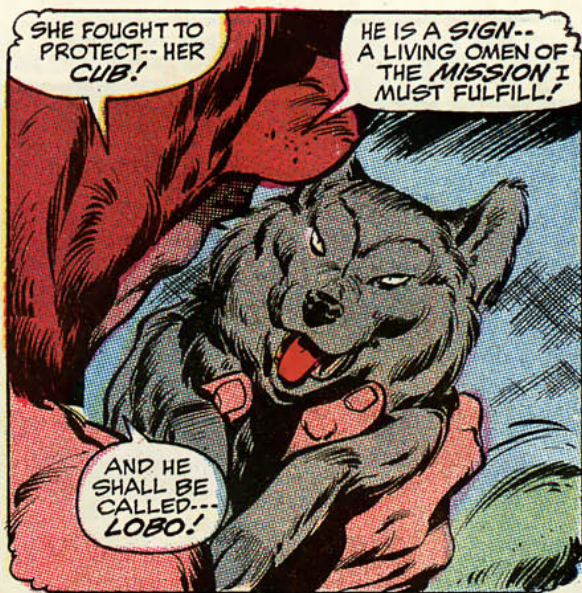
"THEN, FOR A WHILE, ALL WAS SILENCE, ALL WAS STILLNESS--

"-- SAVE FOR THE CRACKLE OF THE FIRE-- AND, FROM AFAR, THE HAUNTED HOWL OF A WOLF--!



YET, WHETHER I BEHELD A HERALD OF THE SPIRIT WORLD-- OR A PHANTOM OF THE MIND---





"IT WAS AT JASON BIRCH THAT I STRUCK FIRST-- HE WHOSE BURNING BULLETS HAD KILLED THOSE I HAD HELP DEAR--!"

"FROM THAT TIME, VAN LUNT WOULD LIVE IN FEAR-- THOUGH NOT FOR LONG--!"

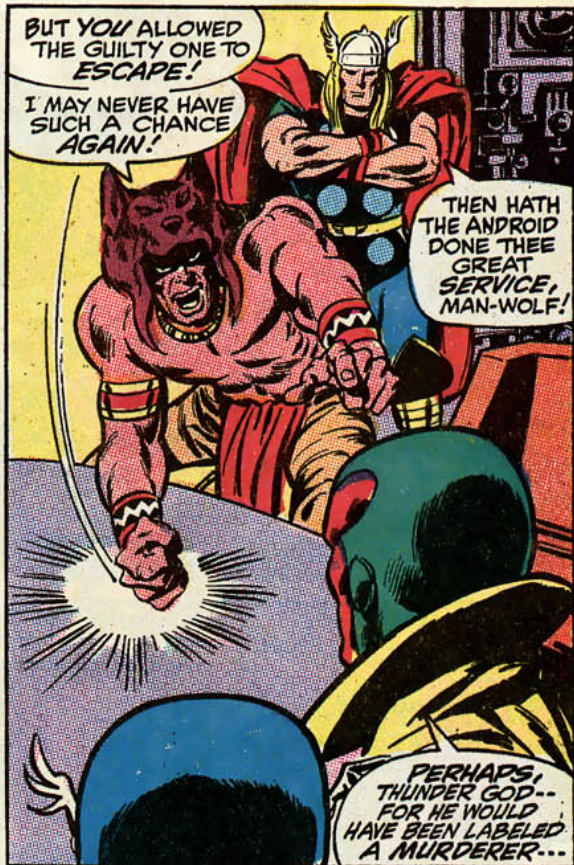


BUT YOU ALLOWED THE GUILTY ONE TO ESCAPE!

I MAY NEVER HAVE SUCH A CHANCE AGAIN!

THEN HATH THE ANDROID DONE THEE GREAT SERVICE, MAN-WOLF!

PERHAPS, THUNDER GOD-- FOR HE WOULD HAVE BEEN LABELED A MURDERER...



STILL, I AM NOT PROUD OF WHAT I DID, RED WOLF--- HOWEVER NOBLE MY REASONS!

AND I STAND READY TO MAKE AMENDS FOR MY ACTIONS!



THE AVENGERS HAD DEALINGS ONCE BEFORE WITH VAN LUNT-- BUT NEVER PROVED HIM GUILTY OF WRONGDOING!*

THIS TIME, HOWEVER, IT WOULD APPEAR HE HAS OVERSTEPPED THE BOUNDARY BETWEEN LAW--- AND LAWLESSNESS!

IF SO, I SHALL HELP YOU BRING HIM ALIVE TO JUSTICE!

JUSTICE? THE WHITE MAN'S JUSTICE?



*IN ISSUE #77!..S.



WAIT A MINUTE!
BEFORE YOU TWO
START A RACE
RIOT--

IF YOU'RE
STILL AN
AVENGER,
VISION, WE'VE
GOT A MISSION
ALL OUR OWN!
TO PERFORM!

AY! HOWE'ER
JUST MAY BE
RED WOLF'S
CAUSE---

IT DOTHS
PALE
BESIDE THE
MENACE OF
ZODIAC!



WHO'S TO MAKE THAT
JUDGMENT, THOR?
YOU? IRON MAN?

OR MUST EACH
MAN WEIGH THEM
BOTH, IN HIS OWN
HEART?

THEN-- YOU
SIDE WITH
THE VISION,
CAP?

YOU MISSED
THE POINT,
SON!

THAT POINT IS-- WE RUN AROUND
CALLING OURSELVES **AVENGERS**--
YET, WHEN THIS MAN COMES
BEFORE US WITH SOMETHING
TO **AVENGE**-- A WRONG THAT
SHRIEKS TO **HEAVEN**
FOR VENGEANCE--

WE TURN A **DEAF**
EAR-- BECAUSE HIS
CAUSE ISN'T **WORLD-**
SHATTERING ENOUGH
FOR US!

WE FORGET
THAT THE WORLD
CAN END WITH A
WHIMPER-- AS
WELL AS WITH A
BANG!

THOSE ARE THE
WORDS I HAVE
LONGED TO HEAR
FROM YOU,
CAP!

NOW YOU KNOW WHY THE SAFETY OF THE
YOUTHS I **TEACH** MEANS MORE TO ME
THAN THE CAPTURE OF COSTUMED
MADMEN!

I SPOKE OF
UNION BEFORE,
T'CHALLA!

BUT NOW, I
KNOW THERE
IS SOME-
THING MORE
IMPORTANT!

AND THAT
SOMETHING IS--
CONVICTION!



THEN, WE MUST
STAND UP AND
BE COUNTED!

GOOD
IDEA!

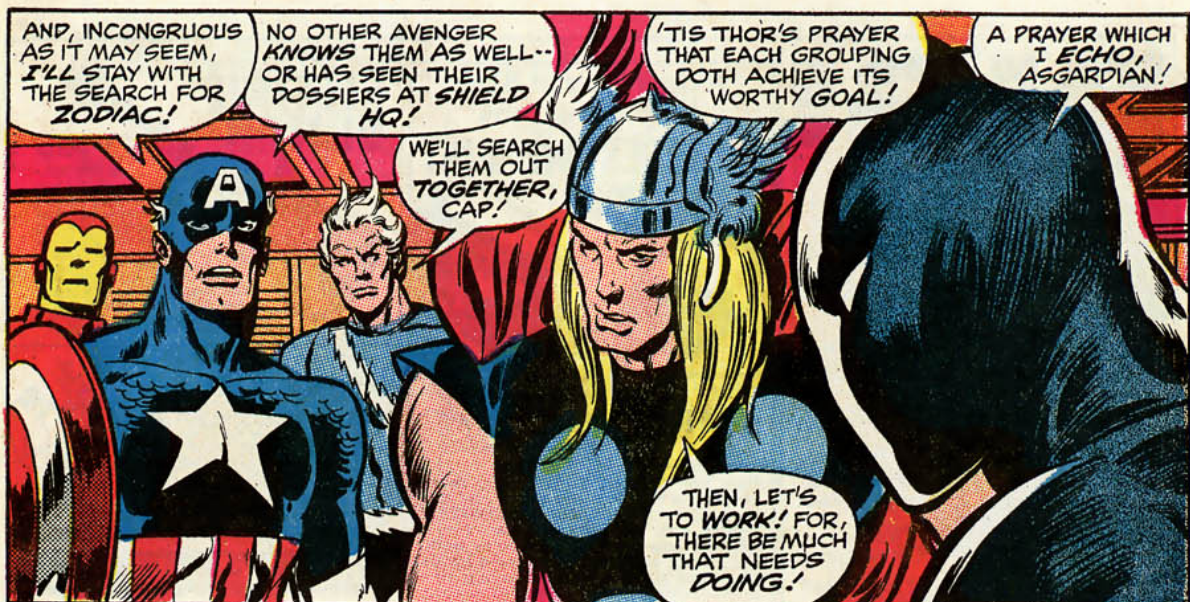
LET EACH OF US
SAY WHICH OF THE
THREE CAUSES HE
WISHES TO
ESPOUSE!

YOU ALREADY
KNOW MY
CHOICE!

BUT I CAN
BETTER
ACT--
ALONE!







AND, INCONGRUOUS AS IT MAY SEEM, I'LL STAY WITH THE SEARCH FOR ZODIAC!

NO OTHER AVENGER KNOWS THEM AS WELL-- OR HAS SEEN THEIR DOSSIERS AT SHIELD HQ!

WE'LL SEARCH THEM OUT TOGETHER, CAP!

'TIS THOR'S PRAYER THAT EACH GROUPING DO THACHIEVE ITS 'WORTHY GOAL!

A PRAYER WHICH I ECHO, ASSGARDIAN!

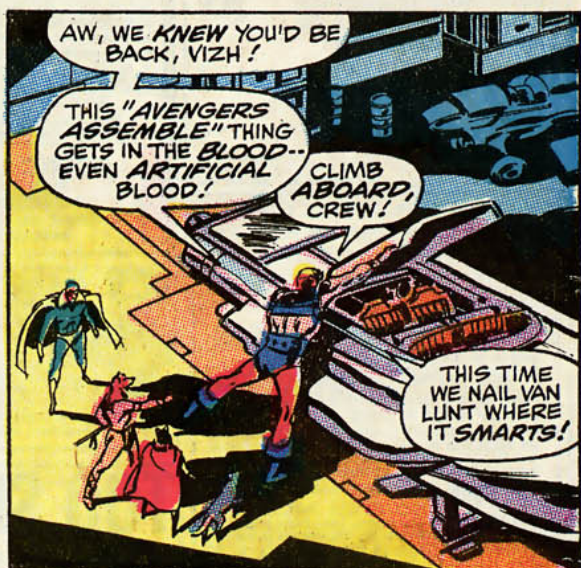
THEN, LET'S TO WORK! FOR, THERE BE MUCH THAT NEEDS DOING!



--- DID ONE AVENGER SAY THAT YOU HAD QUIT THEIR PROUD RANKS, ANDROID?

I HAD, RED WOLF-- FOR REASONS OF MY OWN!

YET NOW, I AM BACK-- FOR BETTER REASONS!



AW, WE KNEW YOU'D BE BACK, VIZH!

THIS "AVENGERS ASSEMBLE" THING GETS IN THE BLOOD-- EVEN ARTIFICIAL BLOOD!

CLIMB ABOARD, CREW!

THIS TIME WE NAIL VAN LUNT WHERE IT SMARTS!



YOUR LOOK HAS CHANGED, VISION-- EVEN AS WE PREPARE TO ASCEND!

HAVE YOU REGRETTED YOUR CHOICE? IF YOU WISH TO STAY--

NO, MY FRIEND! IT IS-- SOMETHING ELSE!

I WONDER-- HAVE I RETURNED TO THE RANKS OF THE MIGHTY AVENGERS--



-- ONLY TO SEE THEM GO THEIR SEPARATE WAYS -- FOR ALL TIME??

NEXT: DIVIDED... WE FALL!