



Swordquest

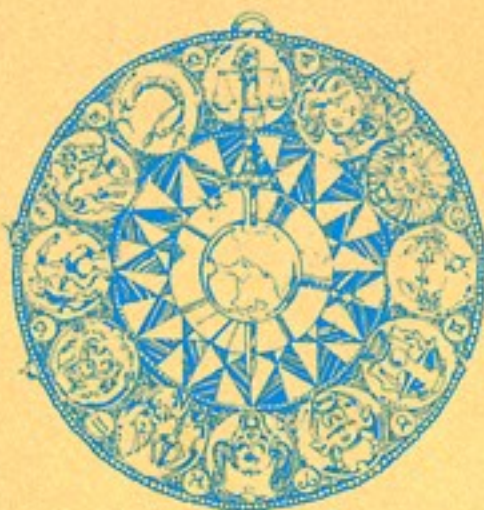
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TM



EARTHWORLD™

Come questing with bold siblings twain,
Prime thieves of ravaged Earth;
Next journey to the Fireworld,
Land of volcanoes' birth.
Waves without number—Water's realm—
But 'ware of evils there;
Last, ride the Air's winds heaven-high
To claim a prize most rare.



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Swordquest

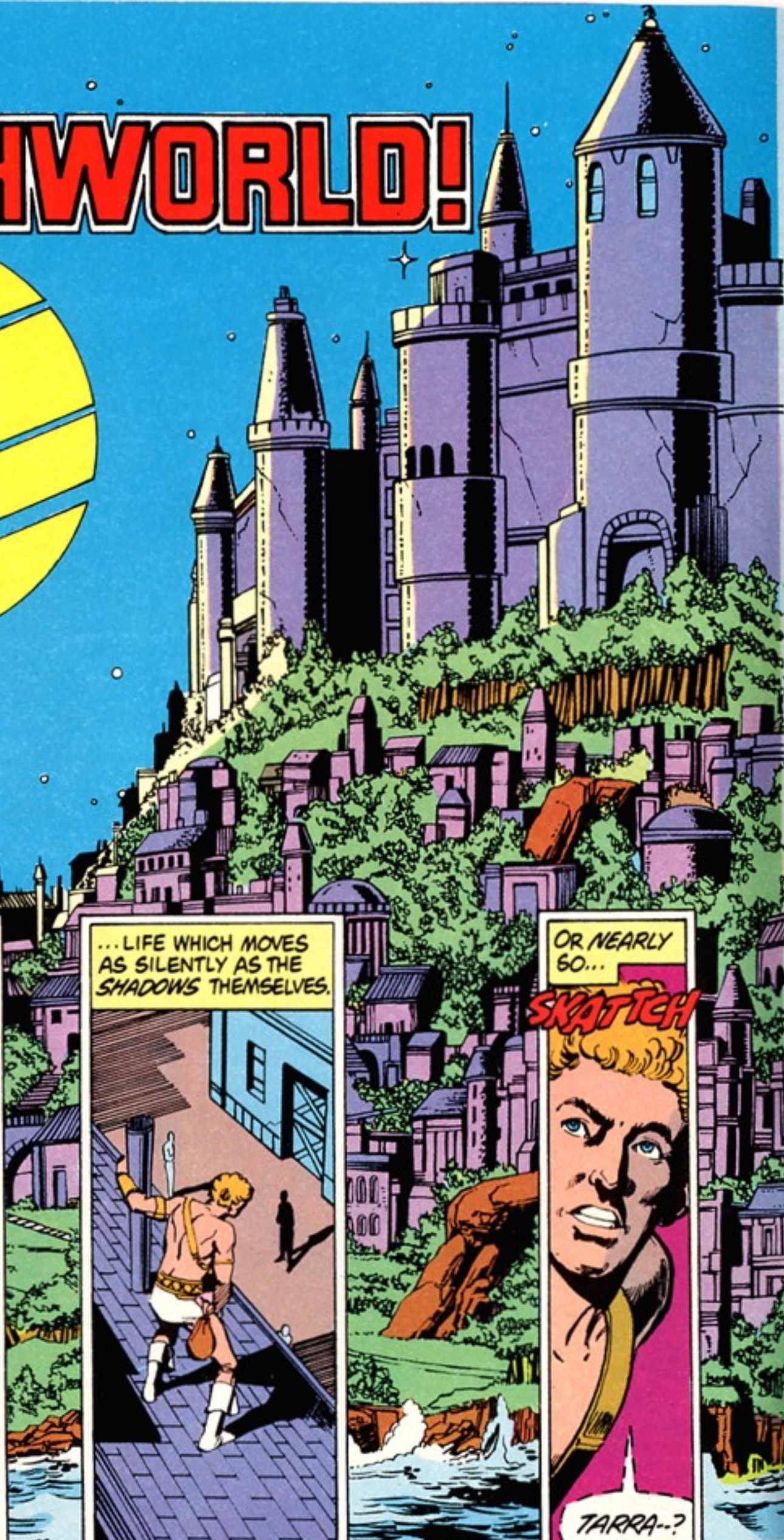
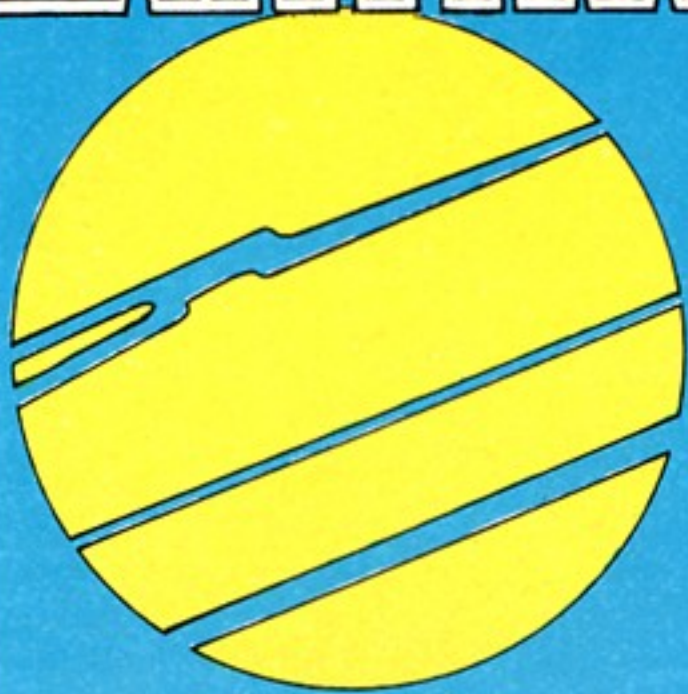
TM

*The ultimate
Search for
the ultimate
treasure!*



BOOK ONE

EARTH WORLD!



BUT THERE IS *LIFE* AMONG
THE ROOFTOPS OF THESE
HUDDLED BUILDINGS...

...LIFE WHICH MOVES
AS SILENTLY AS THE
SHADOWS THEMSELVES.

OR NEARLY
60...

SKATTECH

TARRA--?



MEN CALL IT *DARKSPIRE CASTLE*, THEY WHO DARE SPEAK OF IT AT ALL.

LIKE A GREAT BLACK SPIDER IT BROODS ATOP *MOUNT MANDRAGOR*, HIGH ABOVE THE MEDIEVAL CITY WHOSE LESSER BUILDINGS DOT THE THREE *SEAWARD* SIDES OF THE MASSIVE PEAK.

WHO ELSE, DEAR BROTHER?

I FOLLOWED YOU AFTER YOU SLIPPED OUT OF OUR ROOM.

I SHOULD HAVE GUESSED YOU'D COME HERE.

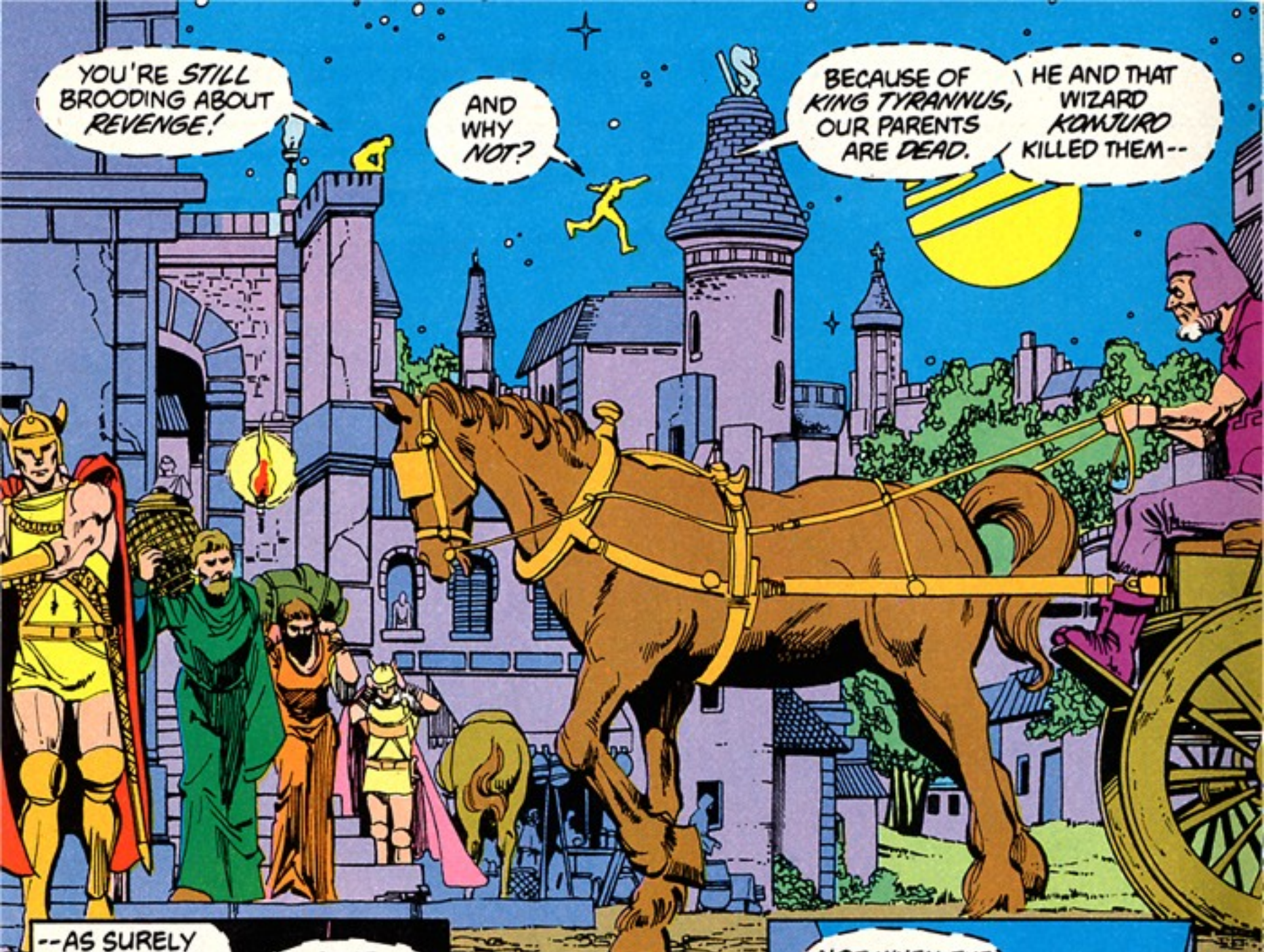
A THIEF HAS TO EAT, TARRA, BUT EATING TO STEAL TO EAT, TARRA. / ISN'T ALL YOU'VE GOT ON YOUR MIND, IS IT, TORR?

YOU'RE STILL
BROODING ABOUT
REVENGE!

AND
WHY
NOT?

BECAUSE OF
KING TYRANNUS,
OUR PARENTS
ARE DEAD.

HE AND THAT
WIZARD
KONJURO
KILLED THEM--



--AS SURELY
AS IF THEY'D
DONE THE DEED
THEMSELVES!

GOOD
THIEVES DON'T
BEAR GRUDGES,
TORR!

AS FOR TYRANNUS, HIS
CASTLE IS A FORTRESS--
NOT EVEN AN EXPERIENCED
THIEF WOULD TRY TO STEAL
INSIDE DARKSPIRE!

NOT WHEN THE
SORCERER
KONJURO'S
KEEP STANDS
UNGUARDED ON
THE GRAY SEA'S
SHORE!

NOR DO
THEY LEAP
WHEN THEY
CAN WALK!

I'VE GOT
MORE EXPERIENCE
THAN YOU THINK,
SISTER--

--AND I'M NOT
PLANNING TO
STEAL FROM
TYRANNUS.

KONJURO?

YOU ARE
MAD!

FOR AN INSTANT, THEIR EYES LOCK ON THAT LONELY TOWER...

...AND IT'S AS IF AN UNSUSPECTED DAM WERE OPENED IN THEIR HEARTS, FLOODING THEM WITH EMOTION, AS THEY RECALL THE STORY OF THEIR ORPHANING...

THEIR FATHER WAS A MIGHTY WARRIOR NAMED TARR, A FAITHFUL MARSHAL OF OLD KING REULLO'S ARMY...

...AND PROUD AS HE WAS OF HIS MANY VICTORIES ON THE BATTLEFIELD, HIS PROUDEST MOMENT CAME ON THE DAWN OF THE LAST DAY OF HIS FINAL CAMPAIGN...

TWO SONS, MY LADY?

YOU'VE GIVEN ME TWO SONS TO CARRY FORTH MY NAME?

BETTER THAN THAT, MY LORD.

SO THEY ARE.

WHAT SHALL WE NAME THEM, WIFE?

WELL, MY LORD, I'VE BEEN THINKING...

A SON AND A DAUGHTER, AS ALIKE AS TWO FLOWERS FROM THE SAME CUTTING!



LAST NIGHT, I RECEIVED
A WARNING, A PROPHECY,
IF YOU WILL, FROM A MAN
STEEPED IN THE WISDOM
OF DARK MAGIC!

HIS WORDS:

"BEWARE THE CHILDREN
WITH HAIR OF GOLD--
TWO THEY ARE, BORN THE
SON AND DAUGHTER OF
A NOBLE WARRIOR!"

"WHEN THOU ART OLD
AND FEEBLE, THEY
SHALL CLAIM THY
THRONE, WITH A
SWORD SHINING
BRIGHTLY AS
SUMMER'S SUN!"

WHAT
WOULD YOU
CALL THIS,
TARR--

--IF NOT
TREACHERY
MOST FOUL!


YOUR MAJESTY
CANNOT BE
SERIOUS!

SUCH PROPHECY
IS MADNESS!

WHO
SPEAKS
THUS?

LET HIM
SHOW HIMSELF,
IF HE DARE!





DEATH TO
...TYRANNUS!

DEATH TO
THE KING!

HE
ALMOST
REACHED
THE
THRONE.

ALMOST,
BUT NOT
QUITE!

RUN,
WYLA!

FOR THE
LOVE OF OUR
CHILDREN--

--RUN!"





WAS THERE EVER
SUCH A BATTLE AS
THIS?

ONE AGAINST A
SCORE, AND THAT ONE
ARMED WITH LITTLE MORE
THAN A SWORD AND A
NOBLE HEART?



WIZARD, DO
SOMETHING!

OF ALL MY GUARDS,
ONLY *THESE* COULD I
TRUST WITH SUCH A
DEED!

IF HE
GETS
PAST
THEM--

HE
SHALL
NOT.

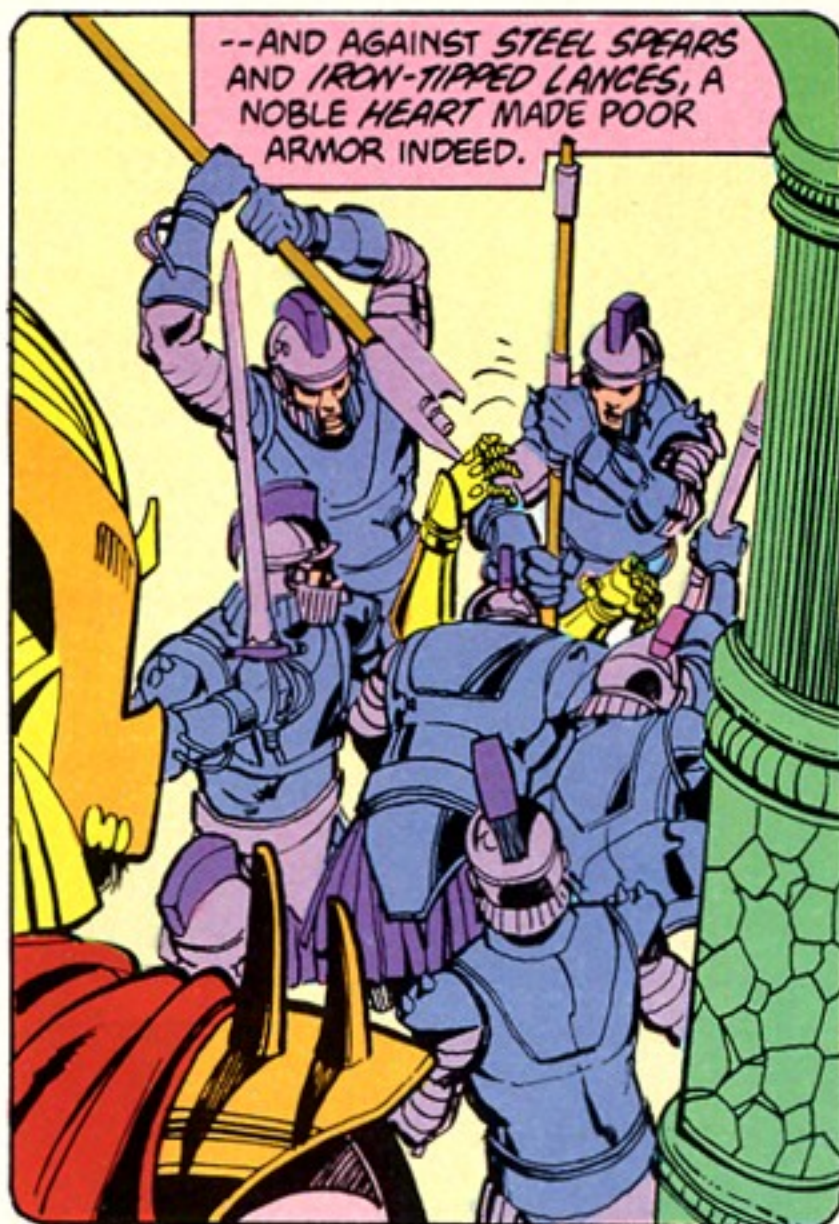


MUTTERED WORDS IN A
TONGUE ALIEN TO THE
MOUTH OF MAN...

KATHU
MORUS
MAHKTO!



--AND THEN, HE HAD
NOT EVEN THE SWORD
WITH WHICH TO
DEFEND HIMSELF--



--AND AGAINST STEEL SPEARS
AND IRON-TIPPED LANCES, A
NOBLE HEART MADE POOR
ARMOR INDEED.

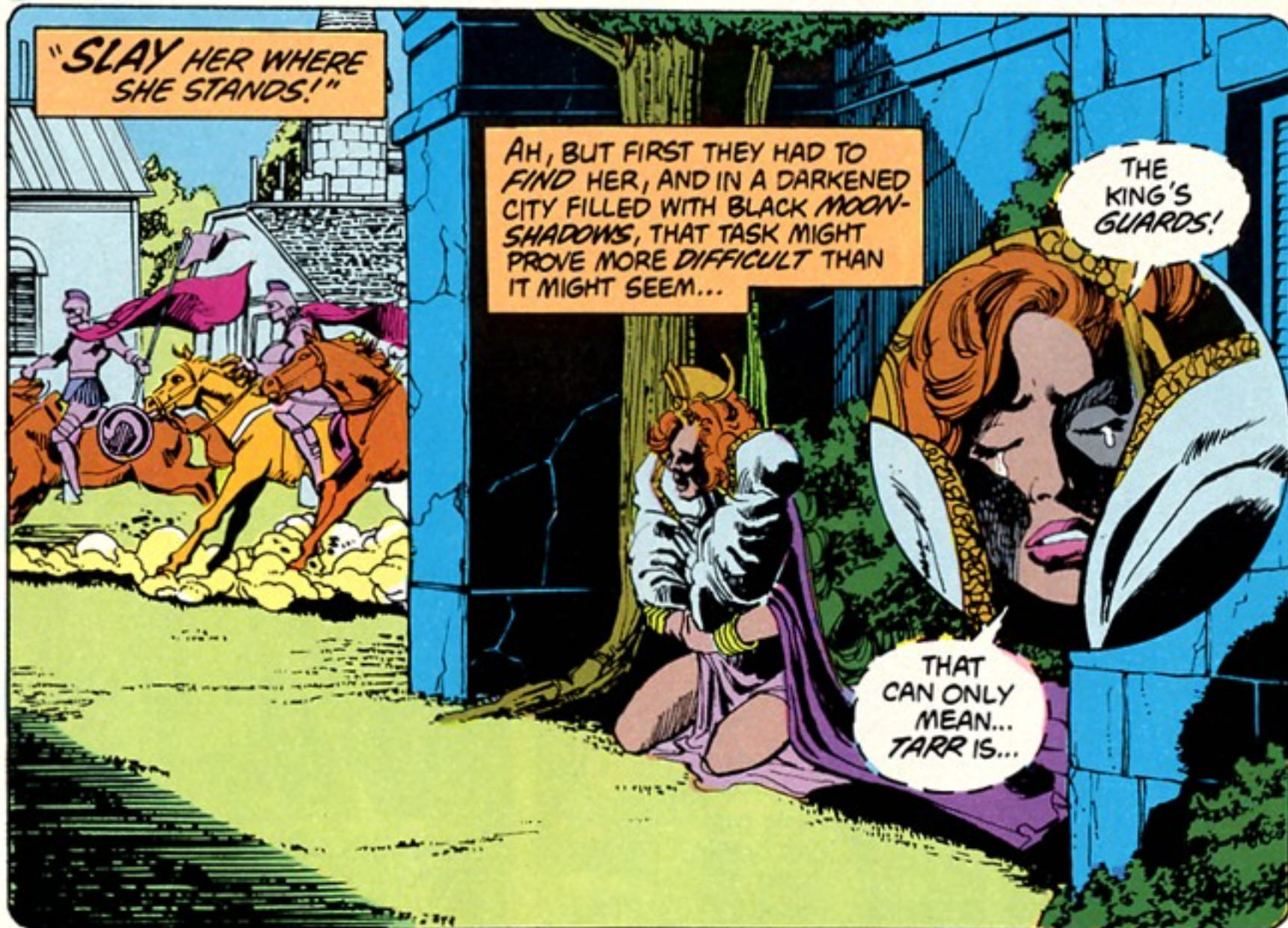


BEFORE YOU
BEGIN GLOATING,
YOUR MAJESTY,
MIGHT I REMIND
YOU... MOTHER
AND CHILDREN
YET LIVE.



A TEMPORARY
CONDITION, AT
WORST. YOU
MEN--
FIND THE MOTHER
AND BRING THE
CHILDREN TO ME.
AND THE
MOTHER--?

WHAT
DO YOU
THINK,
FOOL?



"SLAY HER WHERE
SHE STANDS!"

AH, BUT FIRST THEY HAD TO
FIND HER, AND IN A DARKENED
CITY FILLED WITH BLACK MOON-
SHADOWS, THAT TASK MIGHT
PROVE MORE DIFFICULT THAN
IT MIGHT SEEM...

THE
KING'S
GUARDS!

THAT
CAN ONLY
MEAN...
TARR IS...

SHE CHOKED BACK A SOB; THIS WAS NO TIME FOR TEARS.

AS THE CHATTER OF HORSEHOoves BEAT A HUNTER'S MARCH ON THE COBBLES OF THE CITY, GROWING FAINT AND LOUD BY TURNS, SHE LET MEMORY GUIDE HER TO A SMALL HOUSE JUST INSIDE THE CITY'S WALLS...



FREEMAN GARTH, YOU WERE ONCE MY HUSBAND'S FAITHFUL SCOUT.

ARE YOU FAITHFUL STILL?

EH? 'PON MY SOUL, IT'S LADY WYLA!

YOU SHOULDN'T BE SEEN HERE, MILADY, NOT IN THE HOUSE OF A THIEF!

LET HER IN, GARTH-- CAN'T YOU SEE SHE'S TERRIFIED?

IT'S YOU WHO SHOULDN'T BE SEEN WITH ME, FREEMAN. LISTEN...

WORDS TUMBLED OUT, AND NOW THE TEARS COULD NOT BE HELD BACK...

MILORD TARR KILLED?

STAY, MILADY, AND I'LL GET MY DAGGER--

I DON'T THINK SHE CAME HERE SEEKING THAT KIND OF HELP, HUSBAND.

IT'S THE CHILDREN... ISN'T IT, MILADY?

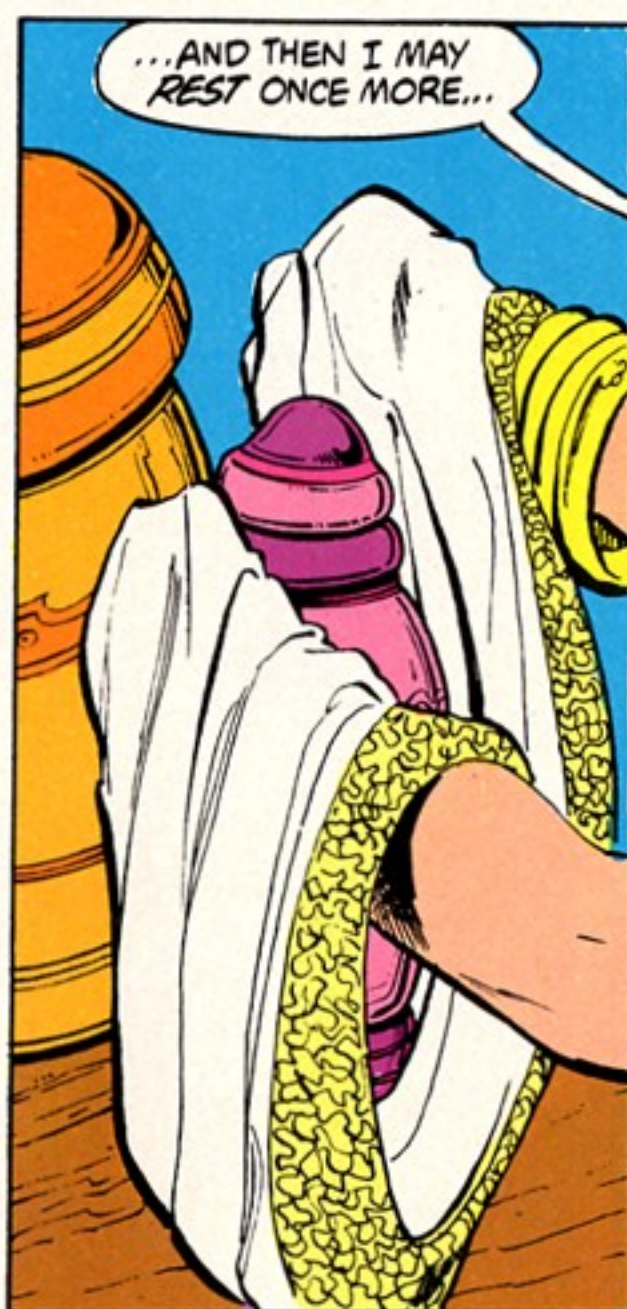
YES...

...WITH ME, THEY ARE MARKED FOR DEATH.

BUT IN YOUR HOUSE, RAISED AS YOUR SON AND DAUGHTER...

AYE, IT'S WORTH A TRY.

WE ALWAYS WANTED YOUNG 'UNS... BUT WHAT ABOUT YOU, MILADY?





MOTHER AND CHILDREN WERE REPORTED DEAD, THEIR BODIES CLAIMED BY A GREEDY SEA.

SAFE, PROTECTED BY ANONYMITY THE TWINS GREW AND LEARNED; AND, BY A TWISTING OF FATE, BECAME THIEVES TO SURVIVE, WHEN THEIR FOSTER-PARENTS DIED...



NOW
MEMORY
FADES...

...AND THEY TURN THEIR ATTENTION TO MORE IMMEDIATE CONCERNS, SUCH AS THE SCALING OF THE WIZARD'S "IMPREGNABLE" TOWER...



AN OPENING IN THE TOWER'S CROWN LEADS DOWN INTO A DARKNESS MADE LIGHTER BY A FAINT GLIMMERING...

PSST, TORR!

CAN YOU
SEE
ANYTHING?



BRACE
YOURSELF,
SISTER...

...IT'S A TREASURE HOUSE!

THAT DARK WIZARD MUST HAVE COLLECTED A FORTUNE FROM THE KING FOR HIS COUNSELING ALL THESE YEARS!

WE'RE
RICH!



WHY, THERE'S GOLD ENOUGH HERE TO BUY US A KINGDOM OF OUR OWN, IF WE WANTED...





TOO MUCH
OF THAT
YELLOW
METAL CAN
WEIGH A
THIEF
DOWN,
TORR.

ME, I
PREFER
A MORE
PORTABLE
TREASURE.

THIS STRANGE
JEWEL, FOR
INSTANCE. I WAGER
IT'S WORTH MORE
THAN ALL THE
GOLDEN
GOBLET'S IN
THE WORLD--



YOU ARE
RIGHT,
CHILD.

ITS WORTH IS FAR
GREATER THAN YOUR
PITIFUL MORTAL
MIND MAY FATHOM.

REPLACE
IT AT ONCE,
AND I
PROMISE
YOU AN EASY
DEATH.

THE
WIZARD!

TO THE
ROPE, TORR
-- HURRY!



"TORR"?

BY THE SEVEN
HELLS, IS IT
POSSIBLE?

THEY
YET
LIVE!



AYE, BUT
NOT FOR
LONG...

WHY
DON'T
WE KILL
HIM?

WHY ARE
WE
FLEEING?

IF YOU
WANT TO
KNOW WHY,
LOOK UP--

-- BUT
DON'T STOP
RUNNING!

IT LOOMS OUT OF THE
STARRY SKY, AT FIRST SO
DISTANT IT SEEMS NO LARGER
THAN A SMALL BIRD...

...BUT AS IT RAPIDLY
CLOSES IN, ITS TRUE
SIZE BECOMES
APPARENT...

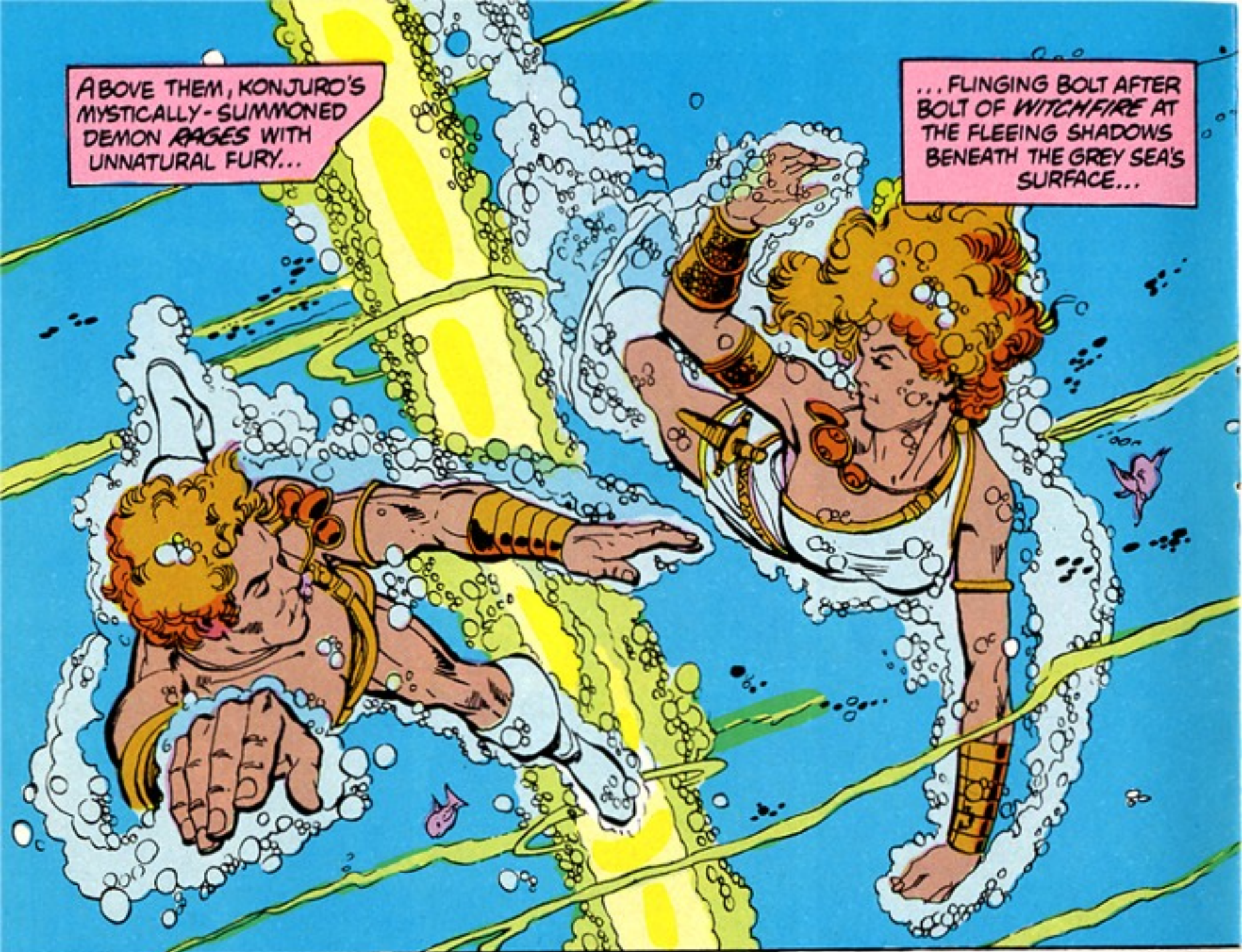


...AND TORR
NO LONGER QUESTIONS THE
WISDOM OF FLIGHT!



ABOVE THEM, KONJURO'S
MYSTICALLY-SUMMONED
DEMON RAGES WITH
UNNATURAL FURY...

... FLINGING BOLT AFTER
BOLT OF WITCHFIRE AT
THE FLEEING SHADOWS
BENEATH THE GREY SEA'S
SURFACE...



BUT, THE TROUBLE
WITH CHASING
SHADOWS--



-- IS THAT YOUR
TRUE TARGETS
OFTEN SLIP AWAY...



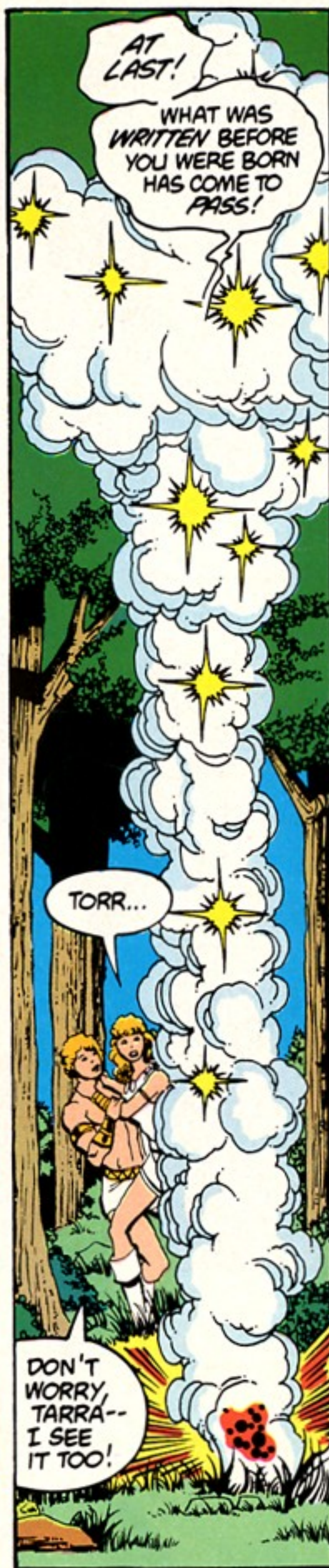
!GASP!... FEEL
LIKE MY BRAIN'S
ABOUT TO
BURST....!

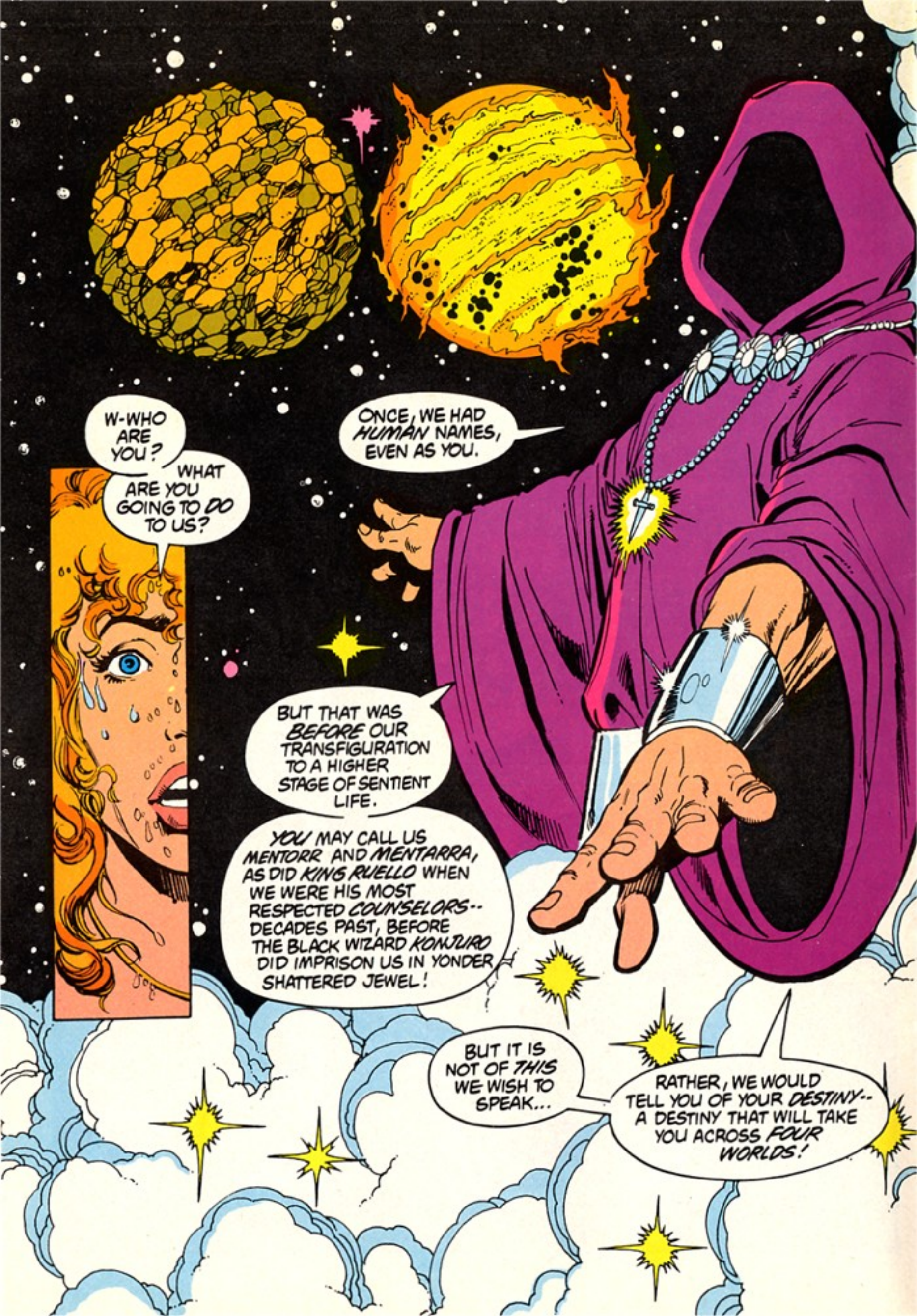
ARE YOU
ALL
RIGHT?

I'LL
LIVE.

KONJURO'S
DEMON--?







W-WHO
ARE
YOU?

WHAT
ARE YOU
GOING TO DO
TO US?

ONCE, WE HAD
HUMAN NAMES,
EVEN AS YOU.

BUT THAT WAS
BEFORE OUR
TRANSFIGURATION
TO A HIGHER
STAGE OF SENTIENT
LIFE.

YOU MAY CALL US
MENTORR AND MENTARRA,
AS DID KING RUELLO WHEN
WE WERE HIS MOST
RESPECTED COUNSELORS--
DECADES PAST, BEFORE
THE BLACK WIZARD KONJURO
DID IMPRISON US IN YONDER
SHATTERED JEWEL!

BUT IT IS
NOT OF *THIS*
WE WISH TO
SPEAK...

RATHER, WE WOULD
TELL YOU OF YOUR *DESTINY*--
A DESTINY THAT WILL TAKE
YOU ACROSS *FOUR*
WORLDS!



REVENGE!

YOU'RE
TALKING ABOUT
REVENGE AGAINST
TYRANNUS
AND THE
WIZARD!

SURMOUNTING
THESE CHALLENGES
WILL MAKE YOU
STRONGER, WISER,
MORE COURAGEOUS--

--AND IN THE
END, WILL GIVE
YOU YOUR
HEART'S
DESIRE!

A WORLD OF
EARTH SPIRITS...
A WORLD OF FIRE...
A WORLD OF WATER
SPRITES... AND
LAST, A WORLD OF
AIR!

ON EACH WORLD,
YOU WILL ENCOUNTER
A CHALLENGE--
PERHAPS MORE
THAN ONE!

THESE
ARE YOUR
WORDS,
NOT OURS.

TO ACHIEVE
YOUR GOAL,
YOU MUST BE
WILLING TO
LEARN WHAT
EACH WORLD CAN
TEACH YOU.

YOU MUST HAVE
OPEN MINDS,
AND YES, OPEN
HEARTS AS WELL.

YOU MUST PUT
ASIDE YOUR ANGER
AND YOUR HATE.

YOU MUST LEARN
TO THINK BEFORE
ACTING.

YOU MUST LEARN
TO JUDGE BEFORE
RESPONDING.

REMEMBER THIS--
THE MOST DIRECT
ROUTE IS NOT
NECESSARILY THE
CORRECT ONE.

THE
GREATEST
WARRIOR
IS NOT
ALWAYS THE
STRONGEST.

NOW
OBSERVE THE
PRIZE THAT
AWAITS YOU--

--THE
SWORD
OF ULTIMATE
SORCERY!

THE
TALISMAN
OF THE PENULTIMATE
TRUTH!



THUNDER ROCKS THE QUIET GLADE, AND WHEN IT PASSES, AND THE SMOKE LIFTS TWISTING INTO THE TWILIGHT SKY...

A PIT!

THIS WASN'T HERE A MOMENT AGO!

IT LOOKS DEEP ENOUGH TO REACH THE VERY HEART OF THE WORLD!

WISE WORDS, TORR, AND TRUER THAN YOU KNOW.

DESCEND, AND YOU WILL ENTER THE FIRST OF THE FOUR WORLDS YOU MUST CONQUER... **EARTHWORLD!**

OBSERVE... LEARN... AND TRIUMPH!

THEY'RE FADING AWAY!

LET THEM.

THEY'VE TOLD US ALL WE NEED TO KNOW.

HAVE THEY?

I WISH I WAS AS SURE AS YOU ARE, TORR.

WHAT ARE YOU AFRAID OF?

WELL, FOR
ONE THING--
THAT!

THE SHAFT ENDS
OVER SOME KIND OF
CIRCULAR DOME--WITH
TWELVE CHAMBERS
AROUND THE OUTSIDE
RING!

THE SWORD
OF ULTIMATE
SORCERY MUST BE
IN ONE OF THOSE
CHAMBERS--THAT'S
OBVIOUS!

FINDING
IT IS JUST A
PROCESS OF
ELIMINATION!

CHILD'S
PLAY!

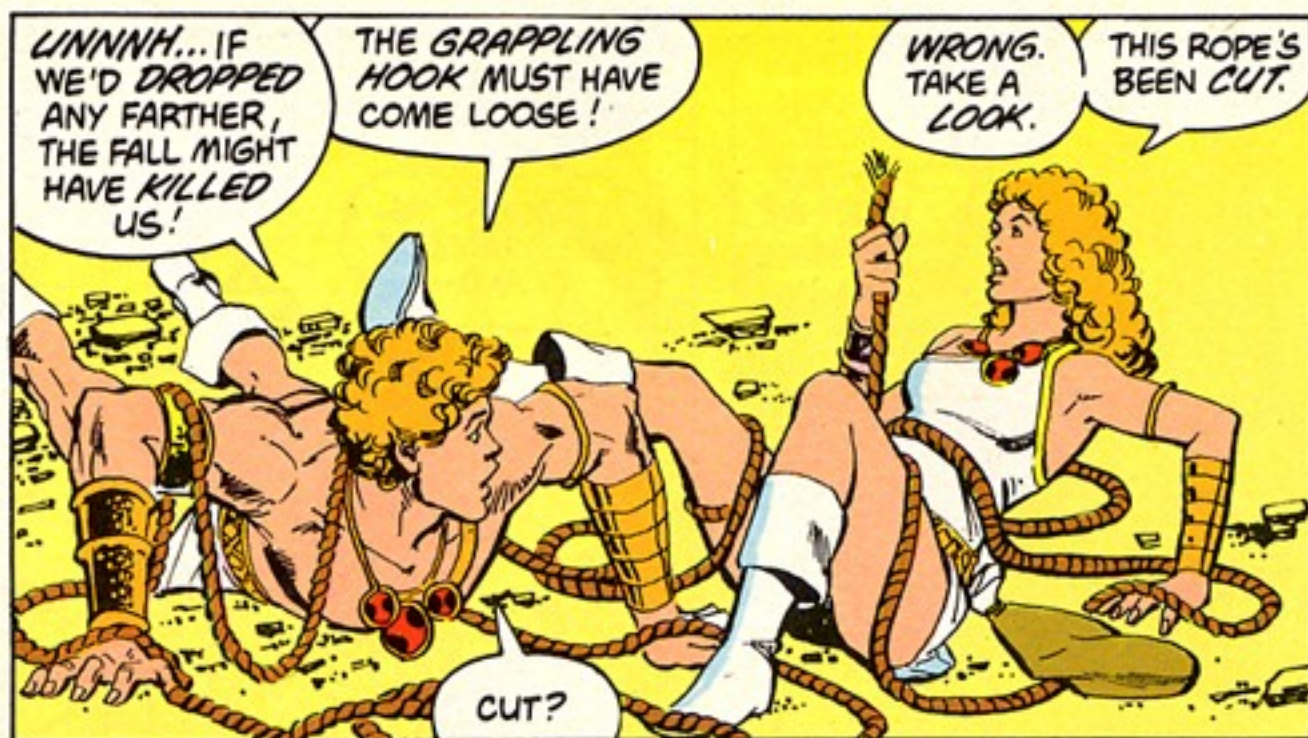
THINK YOU SO,
YELLOW-HAIRED
WHELP?

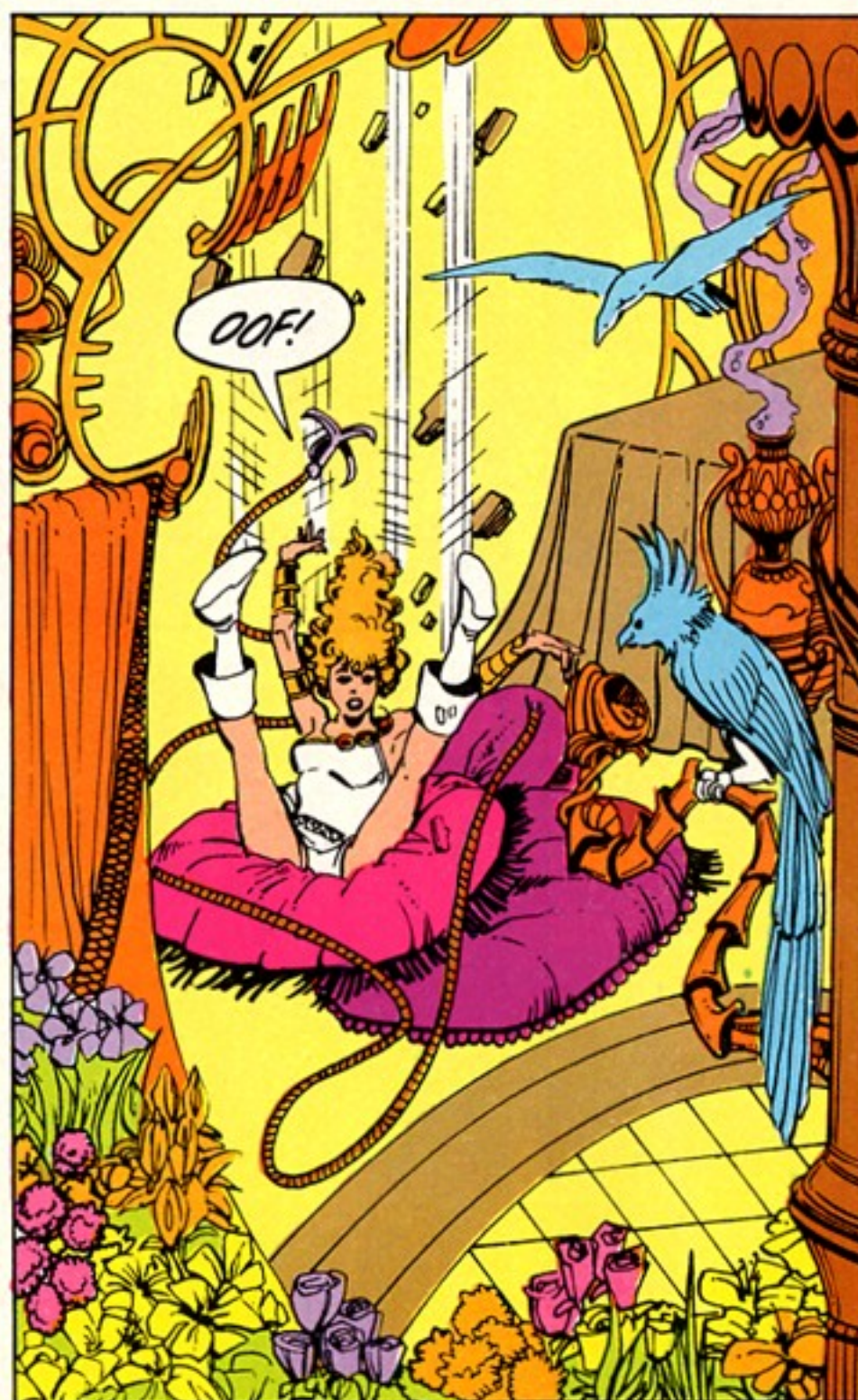
HERMINUS THE
THIEF HAS BEEN
TRYING TO FIND THAT
SWORD FOR ALMOST
TWELVE MOONS!

I'VE INVESTED TOO
MUCH TIME AND
PAIN IN THE SEARCH
TO WELCOME A PAIR
OF RIVALS!

EVEN SUCH
A PAIR OF FOOLS
AS YOU!

SNIK!





ONLY THROUGH A CHAMBER
BELONGING TO AN *EARTH SIGN*
MAY YOU ENTER THIS MYSTIC
REALM OF OURS-- YOUR ENTRY
WAS SIMPLY MORE *DRAMATIC*
THAN MOST.

BUT, I SEE THAT I
HAVE *STARTLED* YOU...
AND THIS *SHAMES*
ME.

ORDINARILY, I
AM *MOST DEMURE*,
I *ASSURE* YOU.

PLEASE, BE AT *EASE*...
RELAX, AND LET THE
SOOTHING *MUSIC* OF
MY CHAMBER BE A BALM
FOR YOUR WEARY *SOUL*.

I AM *VIRGO*.
PLEASE CONSIDER
YOURSELF MY
GUEST.



ELSEWHERE...

I'VE CIRCLED
THIS HUGE DOME
TWICE--

--AND THE ONLY
THING EVEN APPROACHING
A DOOR THAT I'VE FOUND
IS THIS CREVICE.



WHUUF... IT'S A
GOOD THING
THIEVES DON'T EAT
TOO REGULARLY...

...OR I'D NEVER
MAKE IT THROUGH!



THERE!
I'M IN!

NOW TO--

THUMP



THE CREVICE
--IT SLAMMED
SHUT BEHIND
ME!



OF
COURSE,
BOY!

I GET SO
FEW
VISITORS--

--I LIKE TO
MAKE **SURE**
THAT THOSE
WHO STUMBLE
IN... **STAY**
A WHILE!

WHO ARE
YOU-- WHAT
ARE YOU?



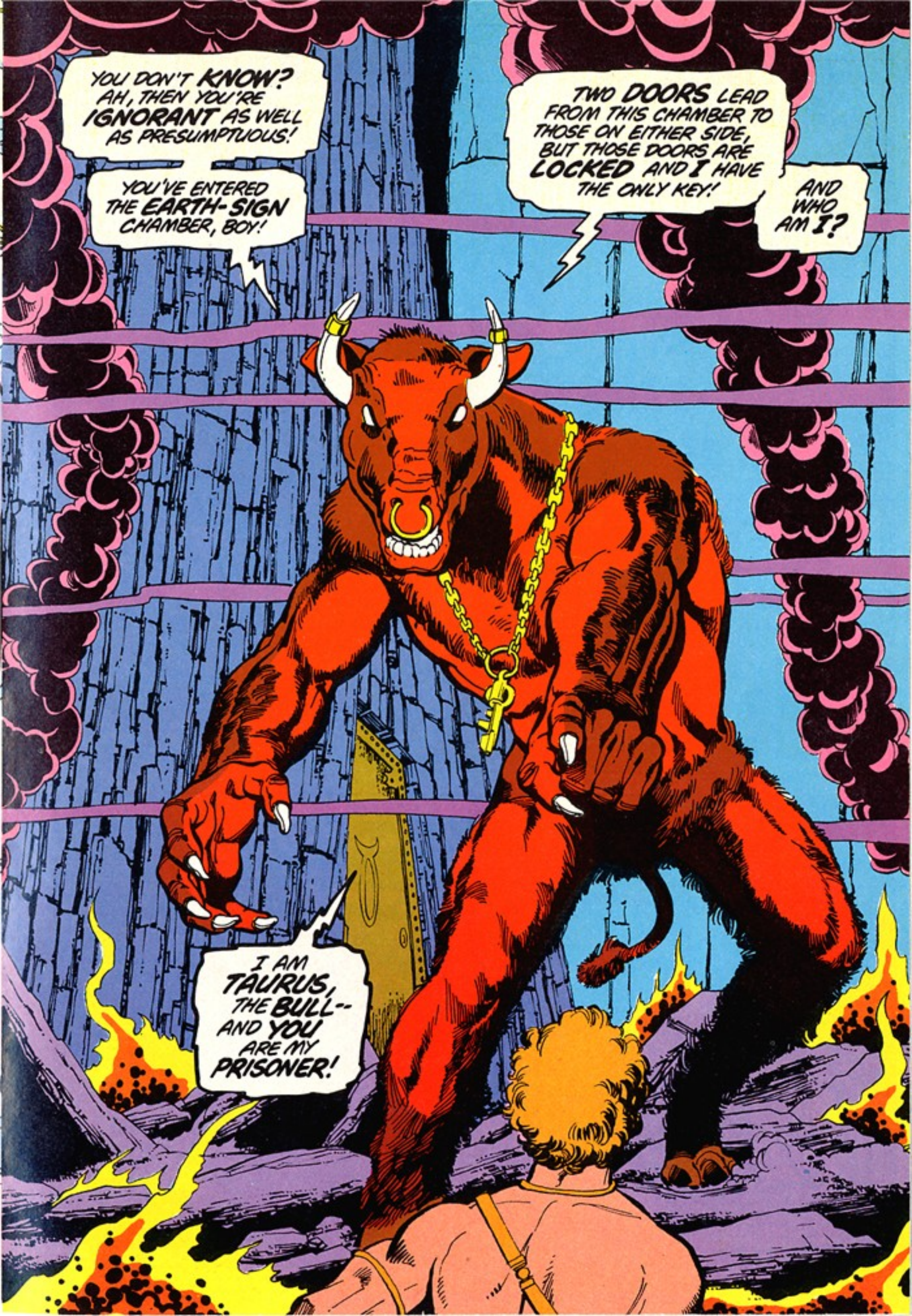
YOU DON'T **KNOW**?
AH, THEN YOU'RE
IGNORANT AS WELL
AS PRESUMPTUOUS!

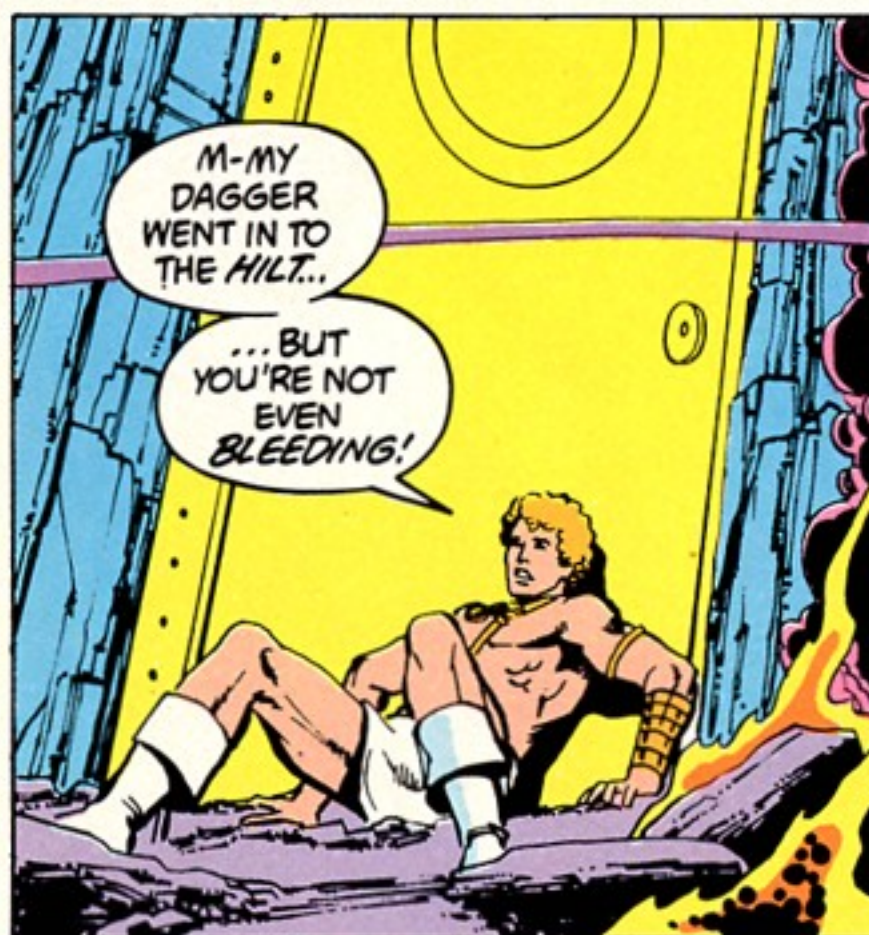
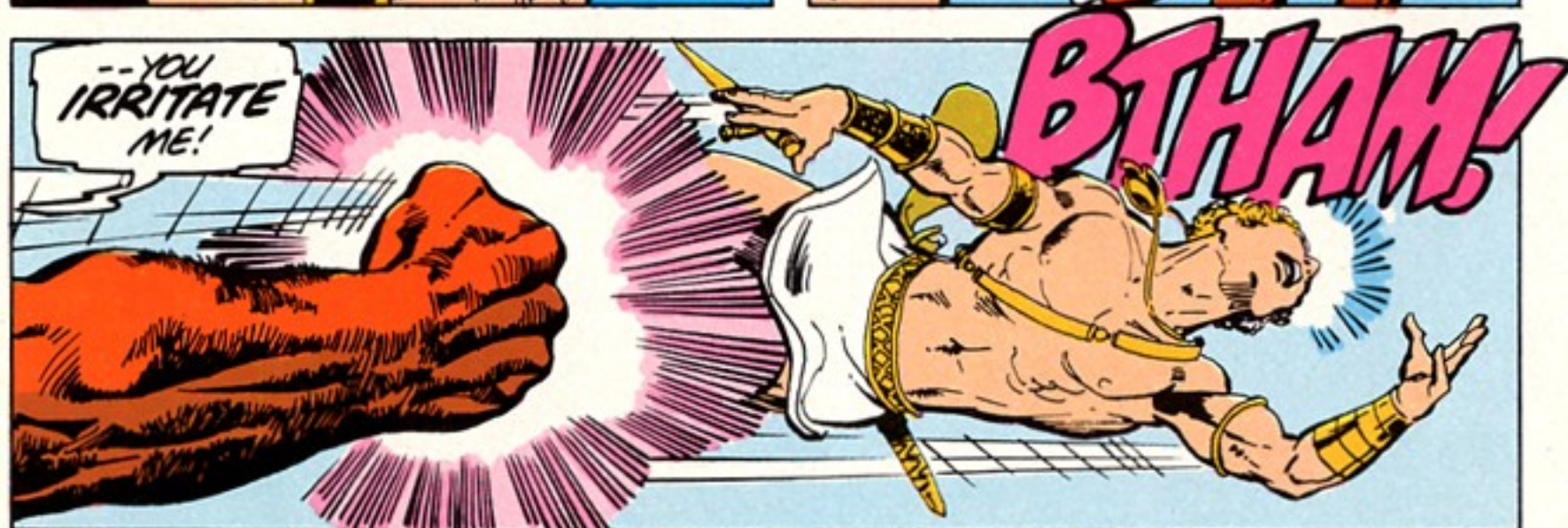
YOU'VE ENTERED
THE **EARTH-SIGN**
CHAMBER, BOY!

TWO **DOORS** LEAD
FROM THIS CHAMBER TO
THOSE ON EITHER SIDE,
BUT THOSE DOORS ARE
LOCKED AND I HAVE
THE ONLY KEY!

AND
WHO
AM I?

I AM
TAURUS,
THE **BULL**--
AND YOU
ARE MY
PRISONER!







--BUT I
CAN HARM
YOU!

WHAT--?

THE KEY!
CURSE YOU,
YOU'VE
STOLEN
THE KEY!



HIS CHARGE
IS CARRYING HIM
CLEAR ACROSS
THE CHAMBER!

HAVE TO
UNLOCK THIS
DOOR BEFORE
HE CAN TURN
ABOUT--!



A TWIST OF METAL
IN METAL AND THE
HUGE VAULT-LIKE
DOOR SWINGS OPEN;
A MOMENT LATER...

I'M THROUGH--
AND THE DOOR'S
SHUT TIGHTLY
AS A WIZARD'S
PURSE!

LET'S
SEE
TAURUS
GET PAST
THAT!



STRANGE
CORRIDOR...IT
SEEMS TO BE
MOVING PAST
FASTER THAN
I'M RUNNING!

ANOTHER
DOOR UP
AHEAD...

WILL I
FIND THE
SWORD IN
THERE?



THE ONLY THING
YOU'LL FIND IN
THERE, YOU
YOUNG
CUTPURSE...

...IS A
SPEEDY
DEATH!

IN THE CHAMBER
OF VIRGO...

SO...YOU SEEK
THE *SWORD*
OF ULTIMATE
SORCERY.

IT WAS WRITTEN THAT
ONE DAY YOU WOULD
COME--YOU AND A
FAIR-HAIRED BOY,
WHO TOGETHER
WOULD FORGE A
GREAT DESTINY.

GODS...

BUT YOU WILL
NEED *HELP*-- A WAY
TO TRAVEL BETWEEN
THE ZODIACAL
CHAMBERS--

--AND YOU
WILL FIND IT THERE,
IN THE *STAR*
OF PASSAGE!

IT'S
BEAUTIFUL.

BUT HOW
CAN I GET IT
OUT OF THAT
GLOBE?

PERHAPS
BREAK THE
GLASS
WITH MY
DAGGER--?

SOME
SIXTH
SENSE
FREEZES
HER HAND,
AS SHE
HEARS A
STRANGE
RUSTLE
BEHIND
HER--

--LIKE THE LEATHERY
WHISPER OF INHUMAN
WINGS...

HOT
BREATH
WARMS
HER
NECK.

PART OF HER
SCREAMS A
WARNING--
"USE THE
DAGGER!
DEFEND
YOURSELF!"

...TRUSTING TO
SHEER *WILL*
TO ACHIEVE
HER GOAL.

GOOD.

YOU'VE PASSED
THE *FIRST*
TEST.

VIRGO! BUT I
THOUGHT YOU'D
BECOME SOME KIND
OF--OF MONSTER!

WAS THAT AN
ILLUSION?

NO, CHILD. I SIMPLY RESPONDED
TO POTENTIAL VIOLENCE.

HAD YOU *PERSISTED*, I MIGHT
HAVE KILLED
YOU--OR YOU
MIGHT HAVE
KILLED ME.

NOW LET
THE STAR
TAKE YOU
WHERE IT
WILL...

...AND
MAY THE
LORDS OF
THE
ZODIAC
KEEP YOU
SAFE!

BUT A GENTLER
ASPECT OF HER
SOUL *REBELS*, AND
THRUSTS BLADE
BACK INTO SHEATH...

SUCH
REACTIONS
ARE *BEYOND*
MY CONTROL.

BUT I AM
PLEASED THE
CONFRONTATION
WAS AVOIDED.

A MOMENT OF BLINDING LIGHT AND, WHEN IT FADES, TARRA FINDS HERSELF IN A SWEET-SMELLING GARDEN...

... LISTENING TO THE MUSIC OF A VERY STRANGE PIPER INDEED.

AH, A VISITOR.
HOW DELIGHTFUL.

COME
PLAY WITH
CAPRICORN,
MY DEAR.

PLAY
WITH ME--

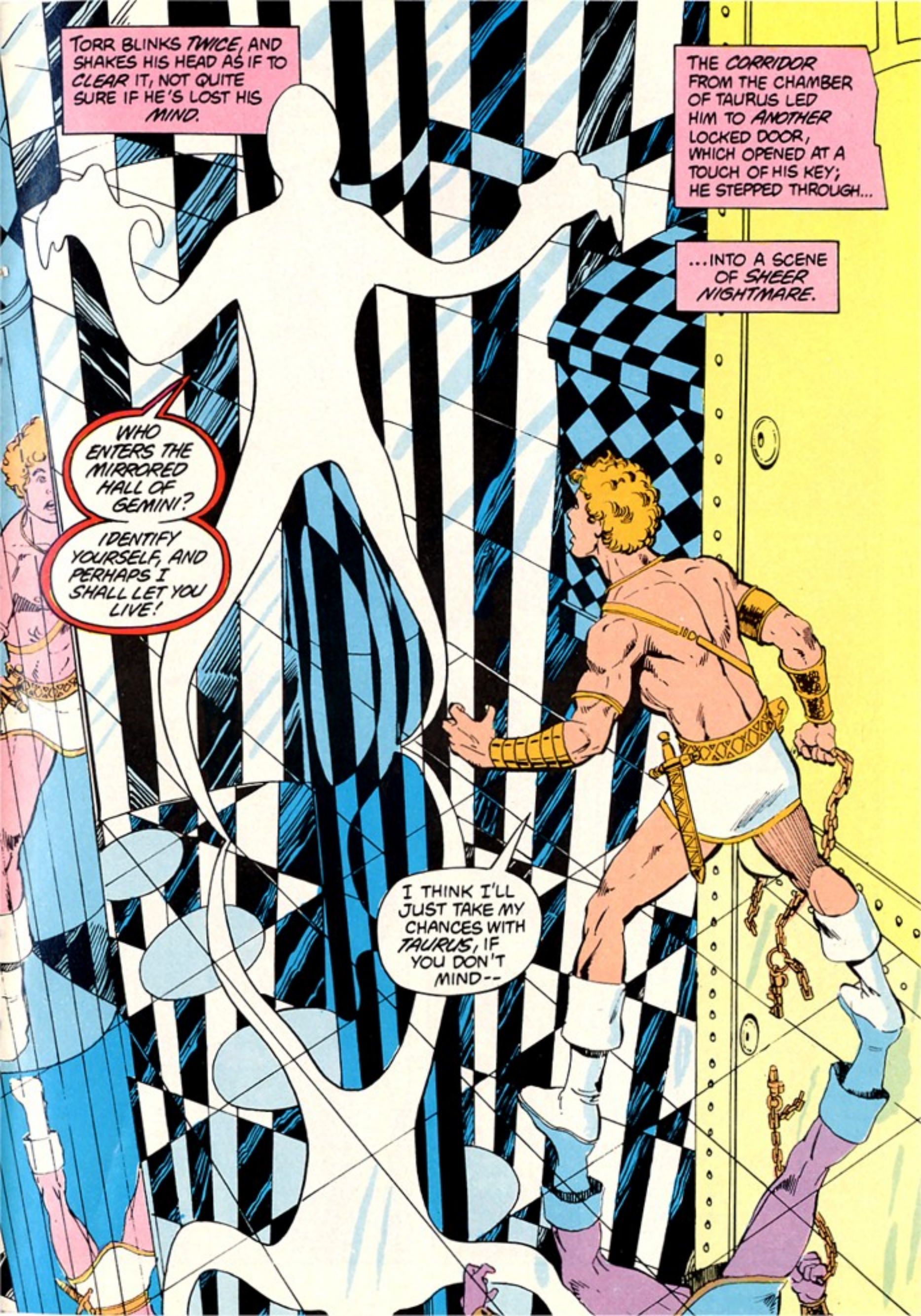
--OR
DIE!

NO THANKS,
GOAT.

I'M
LOOKING
FOR MY
BROTHER, AND
I CAN'T STOP
TO PLAY
UNTIL I--

SNORT-SNORT

--FIND
HIM...



TORR BLINKS TWICE, AND SHAKES HIS HEAD AS IF TO CLEAR IT, NOT QUITE SURE IF HE'S LOST HIS MIND.

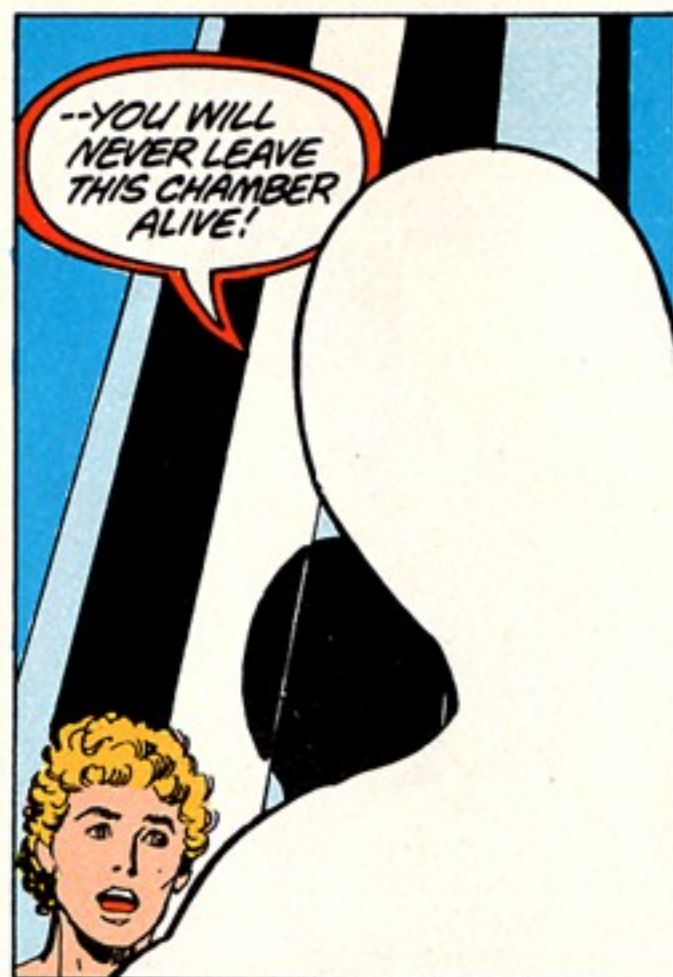
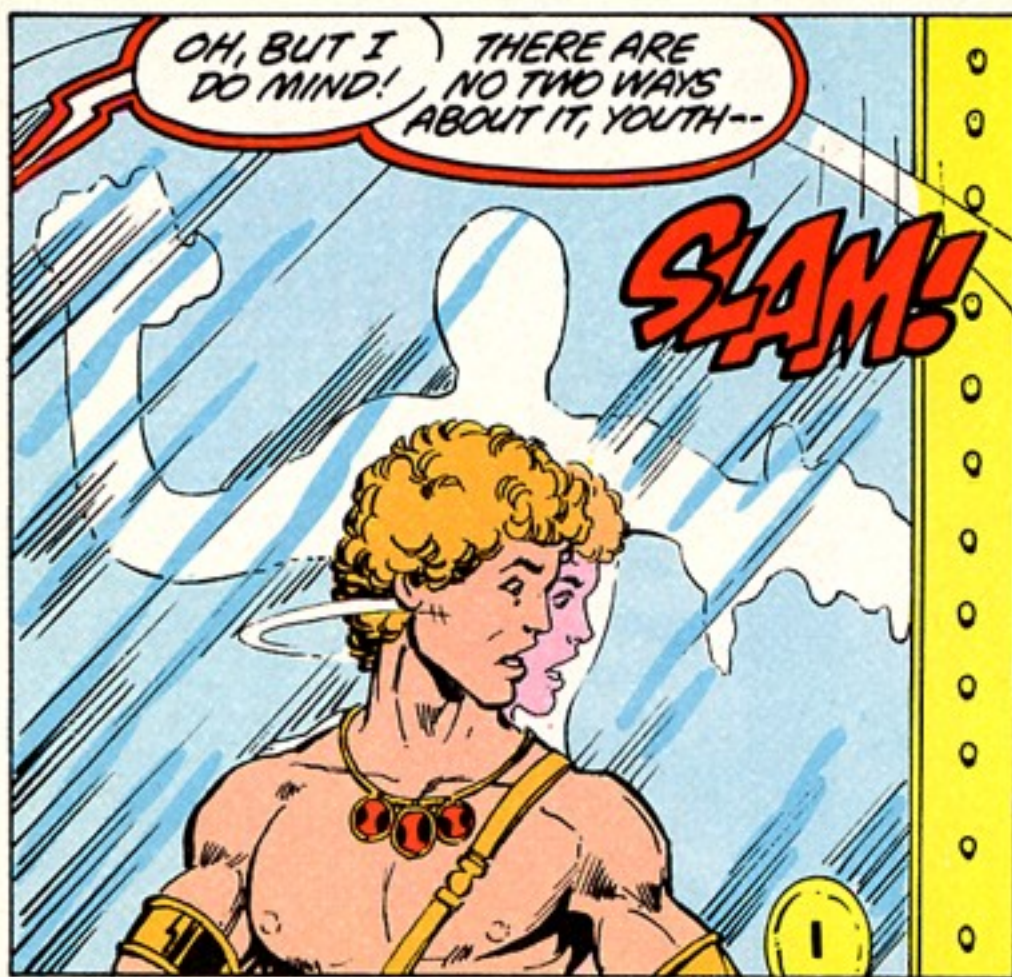
THE CORRIDOR FROM THE CHAMBER OF TAURUS LED HIM TO ANOTHER LOCKED DOOR, WHICH OPENED AT A TOUCH OF HIS KEY; HE STEPPED THROUGH...

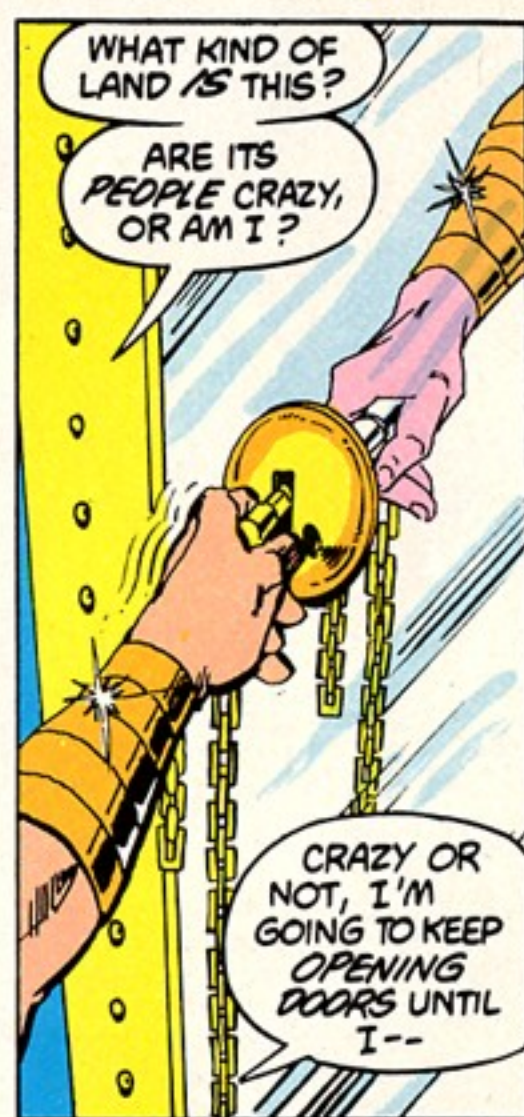
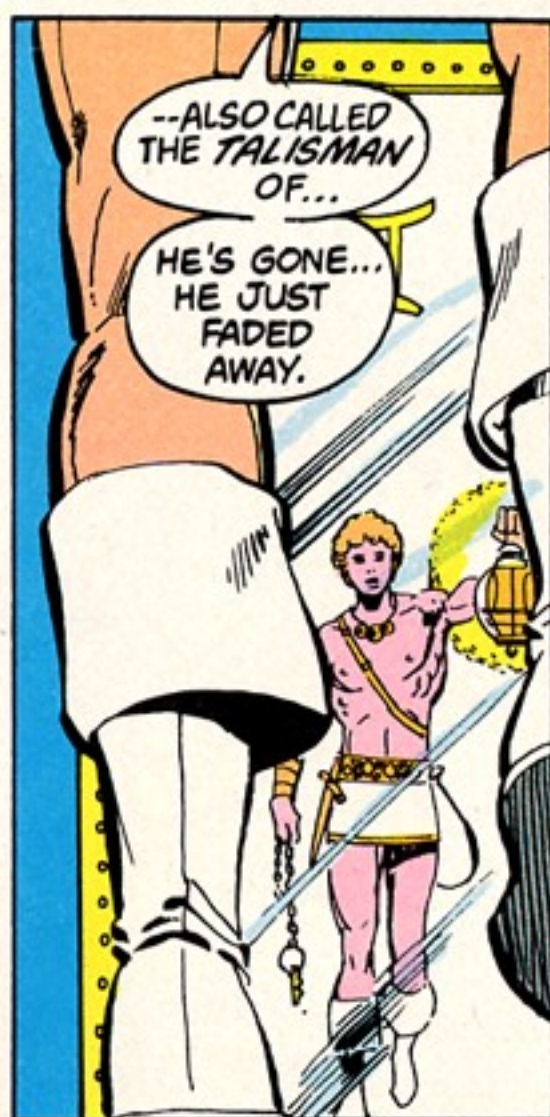
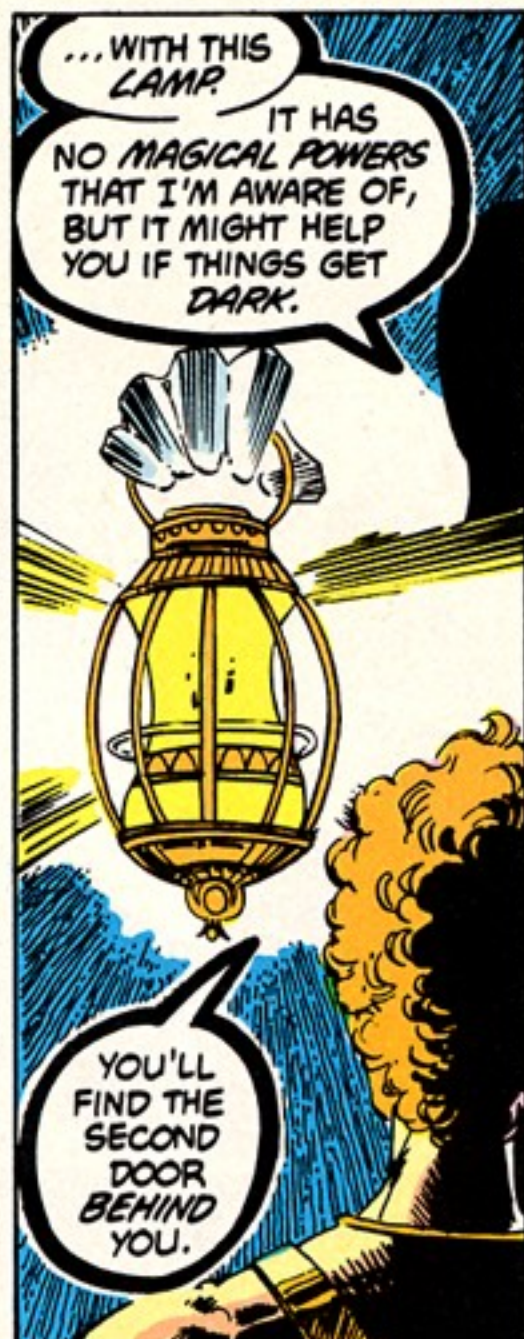
...INTO A SCENE OF SHEER NIGHTMARE.

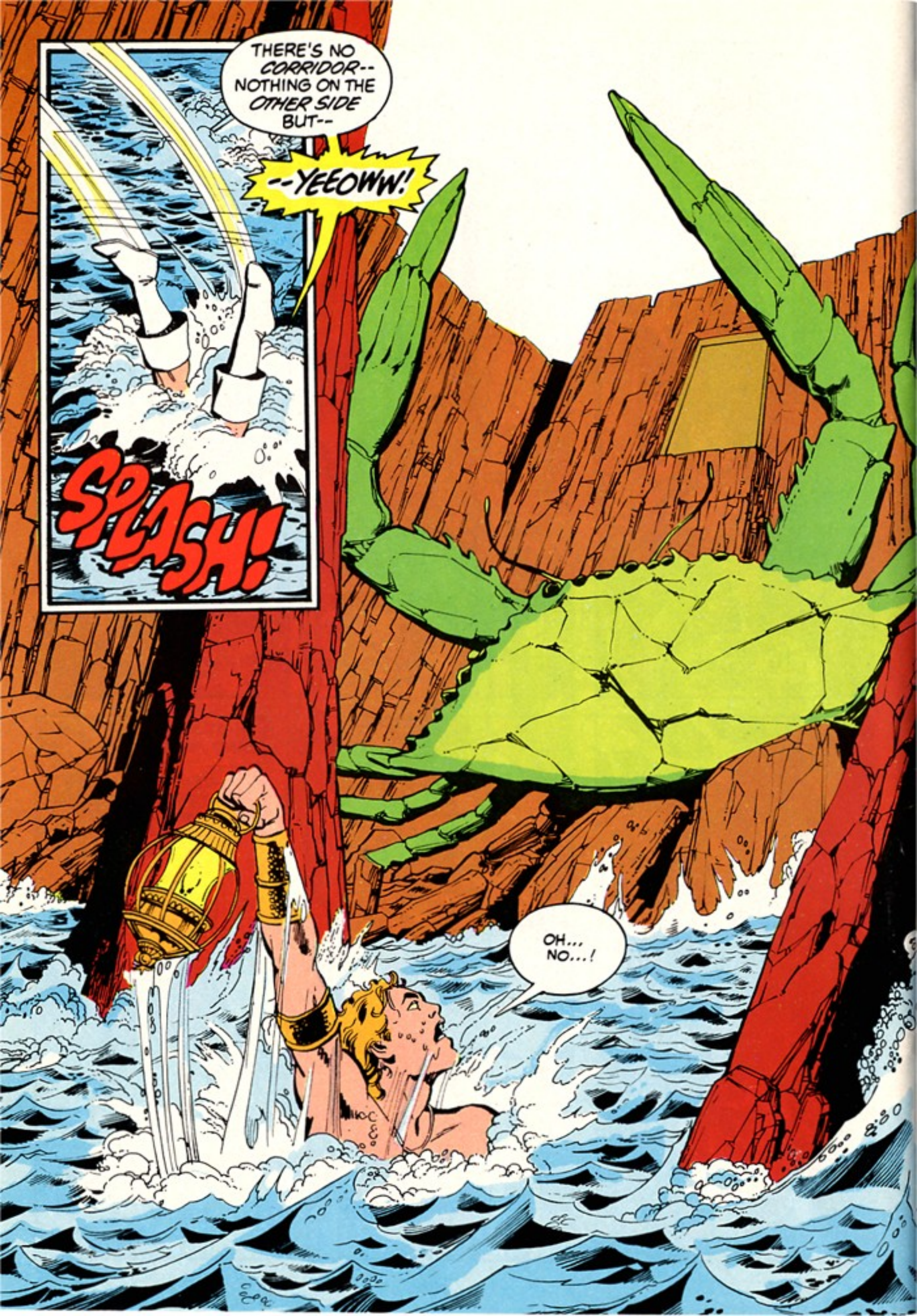
WHO ENTERS THE MIRRORED HALL OF GEMINI?

IDENTIFY YOURSELF, AND PERHAPS I SHALL LET YOU LIVE!

I THINK I'LL JUST TAKE MY CHANCES WITH TAURUS, IF YOU DON'T MIND--







THERE'S NO
CORRIDOR--
NOTHING ON THE
OTHER SIDE
BUT--

--YEEOWW!

SPLASH!

OH...
NO...!

ELSEWHERE...

WHAT AN
ODD CREATURE
TAURUS IS...
APPARENTLY,
TORR BESTED
HIM, AND
TAURUS
FOUND THAT
AMUSING!



SO AMUSING, HE
OFFERED ME SOME
ADVICE AND HELP
WHEN HE REALIZED
WHO I WAS--

-- TELLING ME TO
TAKE THIS CORRIDOR
TO THE CHAMBER ON
HIS LEFT, WHERE HE
SAID TORR WOULD BE
WAITING FOR ME!

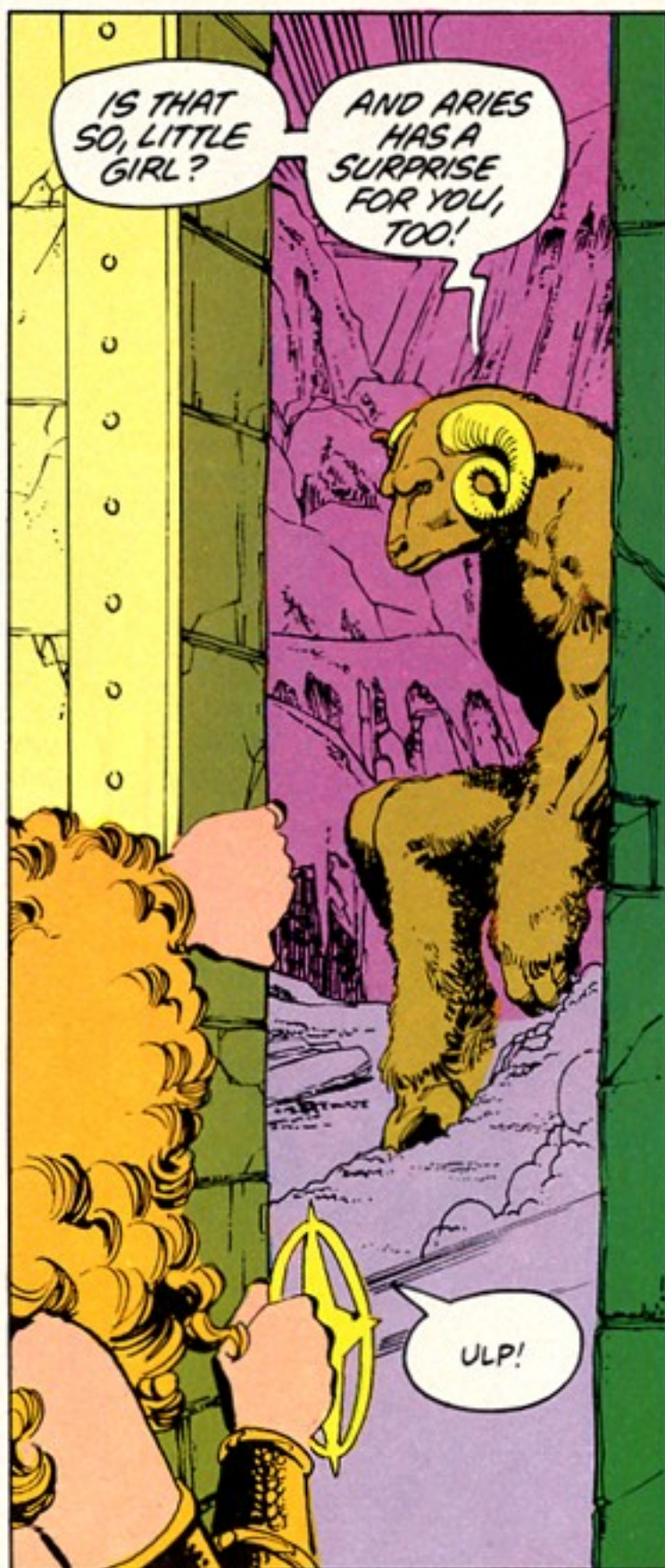
TORR!
IT'S
TARRA!

I'VE GOT
A SURPRISE
FOR YOU--



IS THAT
SO, LITTLE
GIRL?

AND ARIES
HAS A
SURPRISE
FOR YOU,
TOO!



ULP!

THE MINOTAUR
LIED!

HAVE TO GET OUT
OF HERE-- BEFORE
ARIES CAN REACH
ME TO--



IN HER HAND, THE
STAR GLOWS, AS
IF SENSING HER DISTRESS,
AND BETWEEN ONE
BREATH AND THE NEXT--

-- SHE FINDS HERSELF
TRANSPORTED, OUT OF
THE FIRE AND INTO THE
FURNACE...

GODS OF
MY MOTHER!

HERMINUS,
WHO IS THIS
BOLD
INTRUDER?

IS IT ONE OF
THE THIEVES
YOU WARNED
ME ABOUT?

AYE, BRAVE
SAGITTARIUS--
THE VIXEN
CALLED TARRA!

SEE? SHE'S STOLEN
THE STAR OF
PASSAGE FROM
SWEET VIRGO!

BE SWIFT, BEFORE
SHE CAN VANISH
AGAIN--!

TWOK!

OHH!!

GOOD SHOOTING,
BRAVE WARRIOR!

HA!
SHE
DROPPED
THE
STAR!

NOW'S MY CHANCE,
WHILE THAT THICK-
SKULLED CENTAUR
KEEPS HER PINNED
DOWN--!

THE
STAR!

NO!

AND, ELSEWHERE...

I MUST ADMIT, GOOD FRIEND
CRAB-- YOU GAVE ME
QUITE A FRIGHT BACK
THERE!

NOT MY
INTENTION.

AM PEACEFUL,
IF NOT
ATTACKED.

THOUGH NOT
ALWAYS TRUE,
IF STAR-SIGNS
ARE AWRY.

GO AND BE
WELL, YOUNG
WARRIOR... AND
KNOW YOU HAVE
FRIEND IN CANCER.

YET ANOTHER
DOOR OPENS TO
THE MAGIC KEY'S
TOUCH, BUT
WHEN TORR STEPS
THROUGH INTO
THE CHAMBER
BEYOND--

--HE IS GREETED
BY A ROAR OF
UNBRIDLED
FURY!

THIEF AND
TRESPASSER!

HERMINUS WARNED
ME THAT YOU WOULD
COME, BEARING
STOLEN TREASURES
AND SPOUTING LIES!

I'M
BEGINNING
TO UNDER-
STAND.

WAR-CRAFT
MAY BE USELESS
IN THIS LAND,
WHERE FOES
CAN BECOME
FRIENDS AND
FRIENDS CAN
TURN INTO
FOES!

I BETTER
WARN TARRA!

IF I CAN
FIND HER!

WATCH HIM
CAREFULLY,
KING LEO--

HE'S A
TRICKY
ONE,
HE IS!



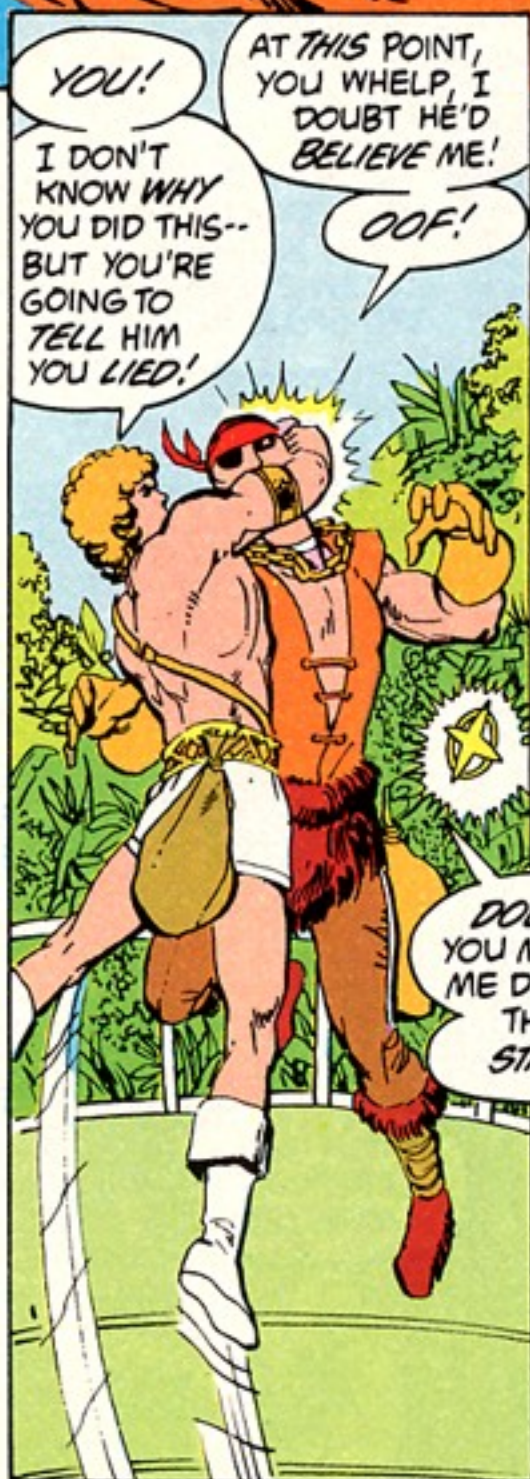
I HAVE NO PATIENCE WITH TRICKSTERS, HERMINUS!



NO PATIENCE AT ALL!

RARRR

SCRASH!



YOU!

I DON'T KNOW WHY YOU DID THIS-- BUT YOU'RE GOING TO TELL HIM YOU LIED!

AT THIS POINT, YOU WHELP, I DOUBT HE'D BELIEVE ME!

OOF!

DOLT! YOU MADE ME DROP THE STAR--!



THAT THING MUST BE IMPORTANT IF YOU--

UH-OH!

ROWRR



TWO HANDS REACH, BUT ONE REACHES FASTER--



--AND IN A FLASH OF BLINDING LIGHT, BOTH THIEVES ARE--

GONE!

HALF A BREATH
LATER...

TARRA!

TWCHUNK

TORR, GET
AWAY!
SAGITTARIUS
WON'T LISTEN
TO REASON!

HE THINKS
WE'RE
BANDITS!

I'M
FINDING
YOUR
RANGE,
WENCH!

TARRA'S GETTING
WINDED-- SHE CAN'T
KEEP DODGING AND, AS
LONG AS THAT ARMED
CENTAUR IS BETWEEN US,
I CAN'T REACH HER TO
HELP!

WAIT-- MAYBE I CAN
BLIND HIM BY TOSSING
THIS CLOAK
OVER HIS--

SIMULTANEOUSLY...

NO SIGN OF
TORR-- HE
MUST HAVE
ESCAPED!

AT LEAST ONE
OF US WILL
SURVIVE!

HUH?

THIS
IS IT..

... GODS HELP
ME, I CAN'T RUN
ANY FURTHER!

NOW
I HAVE
YOU!



YES, BUT
CAN YOU
KEEP
HER?

NA-A-YYY!

SOMEONE'S
MOUNTED
ME-- SOME-
ONE I CANNOT
SEE!



SO... THE LUCKY
BRAT FOUND THE
CLOAK OF
INVISIBILITY!

I'VE FOUND
SOMETHING JUST
AS USEFUL--
THE SHOES OF
STEALTH!



WEARING THESE, I
CAN BE SEEN-- BUT
NOT HEARD!

THAT GIVES ME
THE CHANCE I
NEED TO SLIP
AWAY...

... AND
RETURN TO
THIEVE
ANOTHER
DAY!



SEEN OR UNSEEN,
MY ATTACKER
HAS WEIGHT--

--AND WHAT
HAS WEIGHT
CAN BE THROWN!

BROTHER...?

NO TIME TO
EXPLAIN,
TARRA!

YOU'RE NEAR
ENOUGH NOW!



QUICK,
GRAB THE
STAR,
AND LET'S
GET--



--OUT
OF HERE?

SOMETHING HAPPENED
WHEN WE TOUCHED
THE STAR TOGETHER!

THIS ISN'T ONE
OF THE ZODIACAL
CHAMBERS!

TORR,
LOOK UP
THERE!

WE'VE MADE
IT TO THE CENTRAL
CHAMBER!

THAT'S IT--
THAT'S WHAT
WE'VE BEEN
SEEKING--

--THE SWORD
OF ULTIMATE
SORCERY!

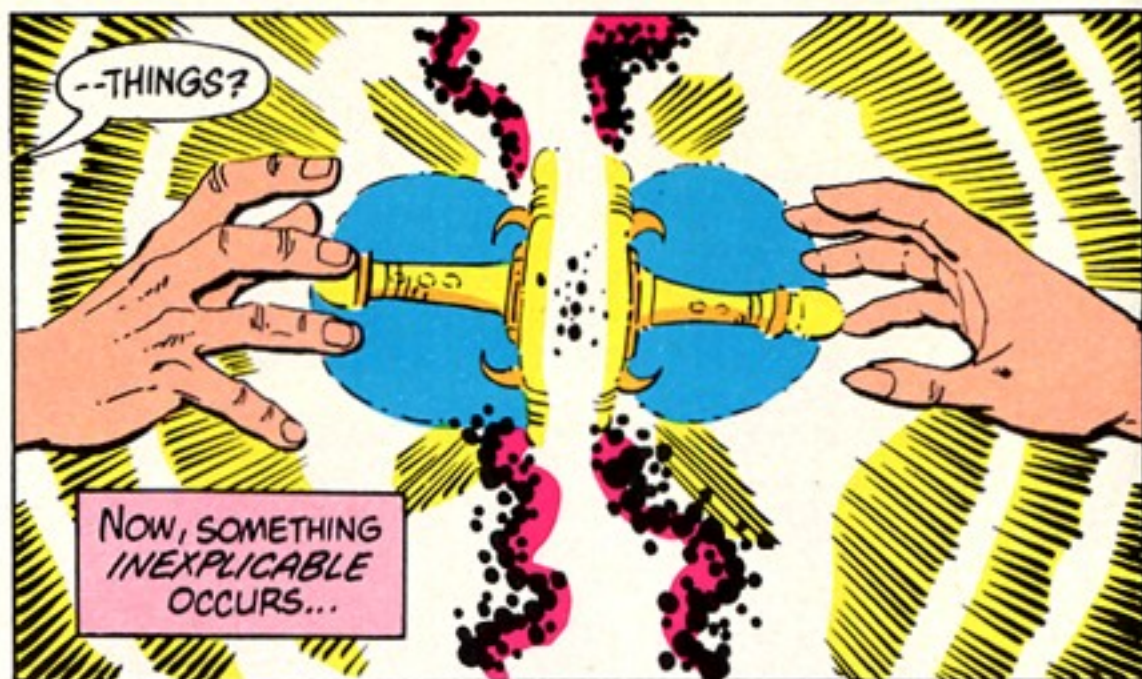
AWE TAKES THEIR
BREATHS AWAY.

AS IF
FORGED
IN THE
FIRES OF
THE SUN,
THE SWORD
GLOWS
WITH
UNEARTHLY
GLORY,
SENDING A
LANCE OF
PURE
ENERGY
DOWN TO
THE MARBLE
BENEATH
ITS POINT.

THAT
ZODIAC
DISC! WE
SAW IT
BEFORE,
WHEN OUR
MENTORS
SHOWED
US THE
SWORD!

TOR--
I JUST
REALIZED--

--WHAT IF
THE SWORD
AND THE
TALISMAN
OF WHICH
THEY SPOKE
ARE TWO
SEPARATE--



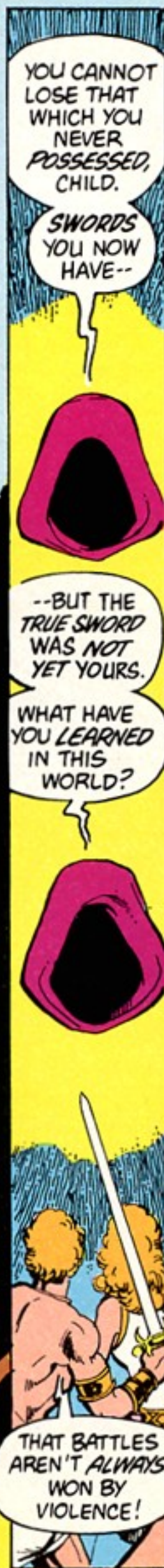


QUICKLY!
DON'T LET
IT--



--FALL!

OH, TORR--
WE'VE
LOST IT!



YOU CANNOT
LOSE THAT
WHICH YOU
NEVER
POSSESSED,
CHILD.

SWORDS
YOU NOW
HAVE--

--BUT THE
TRUE SWORD
WAS NOT
YET YOURS.

WHAT HAVE
YOU LEARNED
IN THIS
WORLD?

THAT BATTLES
AREN'T ALWAYS
WON BY
VIOLENCE!



THEN YOU
HAVE
LEARNED
WELL, AND
HAVE BECOME
WISE
SEEKERS
AS WELL AS
SKILLFUL
THIEVES.

BELOW LIES
THE SECOND
WORLD YOU
MUST FACE,
AS YOU
CLAIM YOUR
DESTINY.



IT TOO
WILL
CHALLENGE
YOUR WITS,
AND YOUR
SKILL.

WILL
YOU
MEET
THAT
CHALLENGE?

WE'VE
COME
THIS FAR,
MENTORR!

BY THE
GODS, WE
WON'T
STOP NOW!

AND NEITHER
WILL *MERMINUS*,
FOOL--

--EVEN IF IT
MEANS FOLLOWING
TO THE VERY
GATES OF HADES!

AND SO IT ENDS,
WITH ANOTHER
BEGINNING.

TORR, YOU MAY
THINK I'M *MAD*,
UNDER THE
CIRCUMSTANCES,
BUT A *CHILL*
JUST RAN DOWN
MY *SPINE*--

--AS IF,
SOMEHOW,
SOMEWHERE,
WE WERE BEING
WATCHED!

IN HIS
CASTLE
KEEP, THE
WIZARD
KONJURO
SMILES.

IT IS A
SMILE
WITHOUT
HUMOR...

...A SMILE LIKE
THE *GRIN* OF
DEATH!

TO BE CONTINUED -- IN *SWORDQUEST* -- BOOK TWO: *FIREWORLD!*

CO19251



ATARI