



# Swordquest<sup>TM</sup> 2





# FIREWORLD™

In Earthworld grim, these Twins have fought  
Twelve beasts of Zodiac birth,  
And mastered thieving as they sought  
For Sword of ultimate worth.

Through Fire world's flames they now do rage  
While Time its toll does add—  
To seven days? A year? An Age?  
Who knows, in a world gone mad?



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# Swordquest



**One  
moment  
ago:**

THE SWORD  
OF ULTIMATE  
SORCERY,  
SOUGHT BY  
THE SIBLING  
ADVENTURERS  
TORR AND TARRA  
IN THE UNDER-  
GROUND KINGDOM  
CALLED EARTHWORLD,  
VANISHED DOWNWARD  
IN A SUDDEN BLINDING,  
WITHERING BLAZE...

...LEAVING  
THE TWO  
YOUNG AND  
UNWILLING  
THIEVES HOLDING  
MERE **METAL**  
COPIES OF THE  
SWORD, AND NOT  
THE **MYSTIC**  
BLADE ITSELF...



SO NATURALLY, BROTHER  
AND SISTER HAVE PLUNGED  
HEADLONG AFTER IT!\*

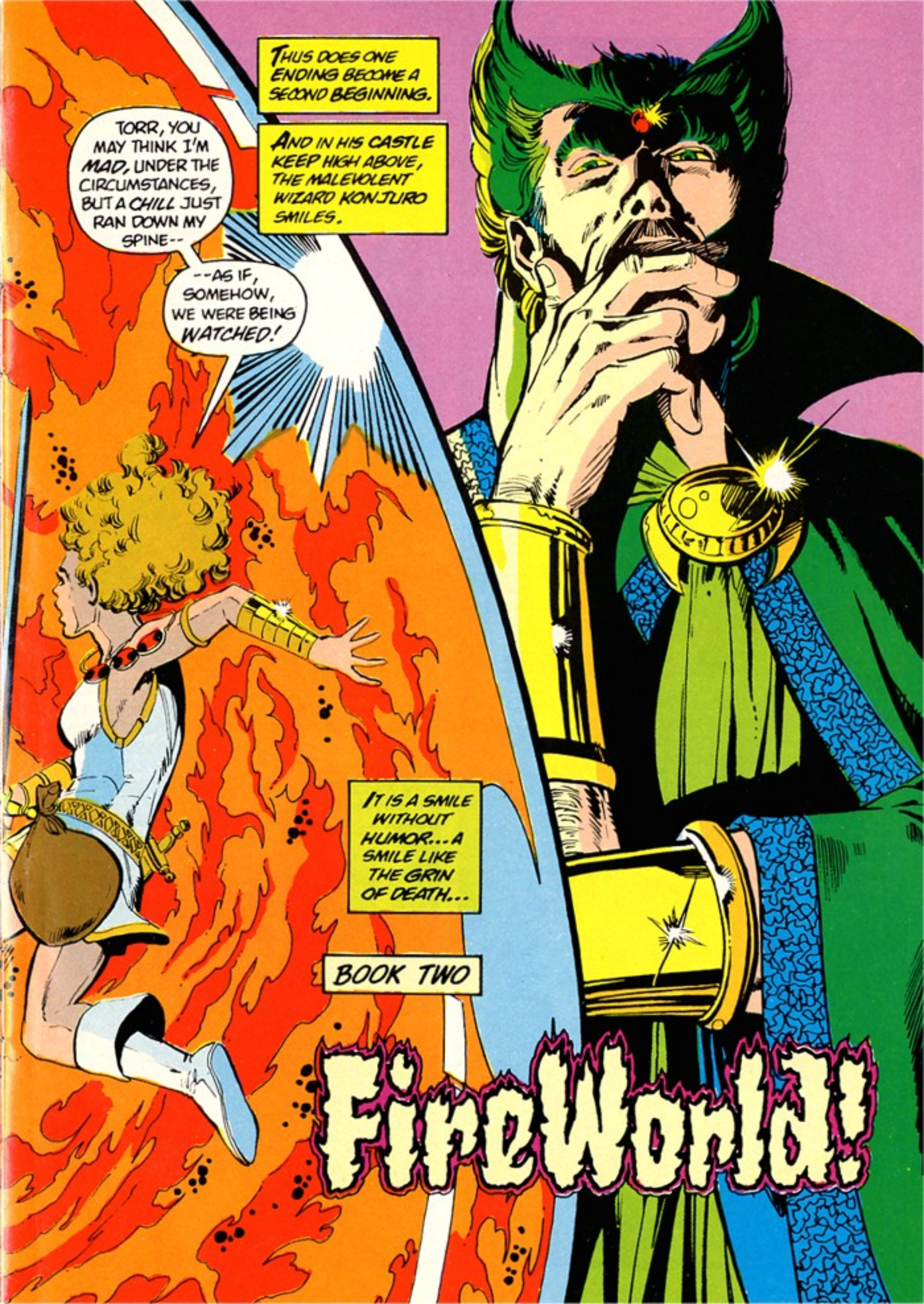
OUR GHOSTLY MENTORS  
CHALLENGED US TO ENTER  
THE SECOND WORLD THAT  
LIES BELOW-- TO CLAIM  
BOTH THE SWORD AND  
OUR OWN DESTINIES!

WELL, WE'VE  
COME THIS FAR--  
AND BY THE GODS,  
WE WON'T STOP  
NOW!



\* AS SEEN IN OUR COMPANION VOLUME  
"EARTHWORLD!"--SOLD WITH  
GAME ONE OF "SWORDQUEST."





THIS DOES ONE  
ENDING BECOME A  
SECOND BEGINNING.

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

AND IN HIS CASTLE  
KEEP HIGH ABOVE,  
THE MALEVOLENT  
WIZARD KONJURO  
SMILES.

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

IT IS A SMILE  
WITHOUT  
HUMOR... A  
SMILE LIKE  
THE GRIN  
OF DEATH...

BOOK TWO

FireWorld!





...YET A SMILE THAT SWIFTLY FADES, WHEN--

WELL, KONJURO? HAVE YOU LOCATED THOSE TWO THIEVING WHELPS YET?

OF COURSE, MY LORD TYRANNUS. THE POWERS OF KONJURO ARE NOT LONG MOCKED...BY ANYONE.



IF THAT WRY COMMENT WAS MEANT FOR YOUR KING, WIZARD, BEST KEEP A CIVIL TONGUE IN YOUR HEAD.

WHERE ARE THEY? HAS YOUR DEMON DISPATCHED THEM YET?

ALAS, THEY ARE BEYOND THE REACH OF MY POWERS...FOR THE MOMENT, AT LEAST...

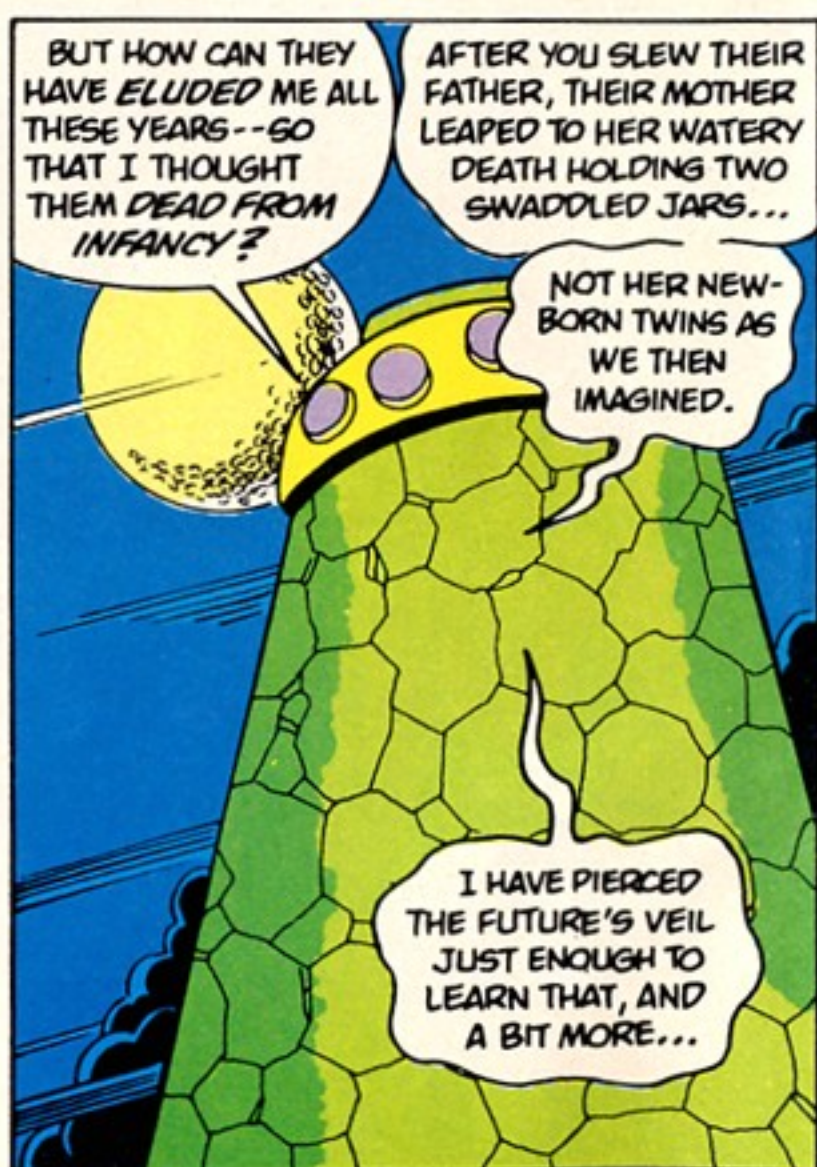


...IN THE PLACE CALLED FIREWORLD, WHICH LIES FAR BENEATH OUR VERY FEET!

AND IS IT AS YOU SAID?

ARE THEY INDEED THE GOLD-HAIRED ONES WHO, 'T WAS PROPHESIED, WILL CLAIM MY VERY THRONE, WITH "A SWORD SHINING BRIGHTLY AS SUMMER'S SUN"?

AS YOU CLAIMED THEIR PARENTS' LIVES, AYE, MY KING.



BUT HOW CAN THEY HAVE ELUDED ME ALL THESE YEARS--SO THAT I THOUGHT THEM DEAD FROM INFANCY?

AFTER YOU SLEW THEIR FATHER, THEIR MOTHER LEAPED TO HER WATERY DEATH HOLDING TWO SWADDLED JARS...

NOT HER NEW-BORN TWINS AS WE THEN IMAGINED.

I HAVE PIERCED THE FUTURE'S VEIL JUST ENOUGH TO LEARN THAT, AND A BIT MORE...



"...FOR WHEN THEY STOLE NEAR MY TOWER THIS NIGHT, INTENT ON ROBBING ME, THEIR THOUGHTS OF VENGEANCE WERE STRONG...

"THEY WERE THINKING OF THEIR WARRIOR-FATHER'S DEATH AT YOUR HANDS, AND OF THEIR OWN ORPHANING WHEN THEIR MOTHER SACRIFICED HERSELF FOR THEM...

"...SO STRONG THAT THEY HOVERED WRAITH-LIKE IN THE AIR, LONG ENOUGH FOR MY SPELL TO GATHER AND READ THEM, LIKE SO MANY TEA-LEAVES.

...AS WELL AS OF WHAT HAPPENED IN THE MONTHS AND YEARS WHICH FOLLOWED :"

YOUNG TORR GROWS STRAIGHT AND TALL, EH ?

NO TALLER THAN TARRA, HUSBAND.

THEY'RE TWINS, AFTER ALL.

MAY WE GO OUT AND PLAY NOW, FELECIA ?

AH, IF ONLY YOU COULD, CHILD!

BUT NO ONE DARES WALK ABROAD IN THE SHADOW OF DARKSPIRE CASTLE, AFTER THE NIGHT-BELL HAS SOUNDED, AND--

**BONG  
BONG**

LISTEN! IT TOLLS--AND ALL MUST OBEY THE CURFEW, THIS NIGHT AS EVERY NIGHT FOR FIVE YEARS NOW--!



"AND WE KNOW FULL WELL WHY  
FREEMAN AND SLAVE ALIKE WERE  
FORCED TO HIDE THEIR FEARFUL  
HEADS INDOORS FROM DUSK TO  
DAWN, DO WE NOT, TYRANNUS?"

"TO FORESTALL POSSIBLE  
REBELLION AGAINST  
YOUR RULE, YOU BADE  
ME UNLEASH TWO  
SWORD-WIELDING  
NETHER DEMONS EACH  
DAY AS THE SUN DIED  
BURNING IN THE WEST..."

"...DEMONS WHO  
COULD NOT BE  
PERCEIVED BY  
HUMAN EYE..."

"...YET WHO APPEARED  
TO THE CRINGING  
POPULACE AS A  
SINISTER MIST WHICH  
SNAKED ITS WAY  
THROUGH STREET AND  
ALLEYWAY OF THE  
CITY BELOW..."



"...BRINGING A HIDEOUS DEATH TO ALL WHO COULD NOT REACH HOME AND HEARTH IN TIME!



"WHILE, WITHIN ONE OF THOSE HOVELS..."

IF ONLY WE DARED REVEAL THEIR TRUE SELVES, FELECIA --INSTEAD OF HIDING THEIR GOLDEN LOCKS BENEATH THAT CRUDE, DARK DYE--

THEY'RE BUT CHILDREN, GARTH--NOT WARRIORS LIKE THEIR SIRE.

--THE PEOPLE MIGHT RISE AGAINST TYRANNUS, AND BRING HIM DOWN!



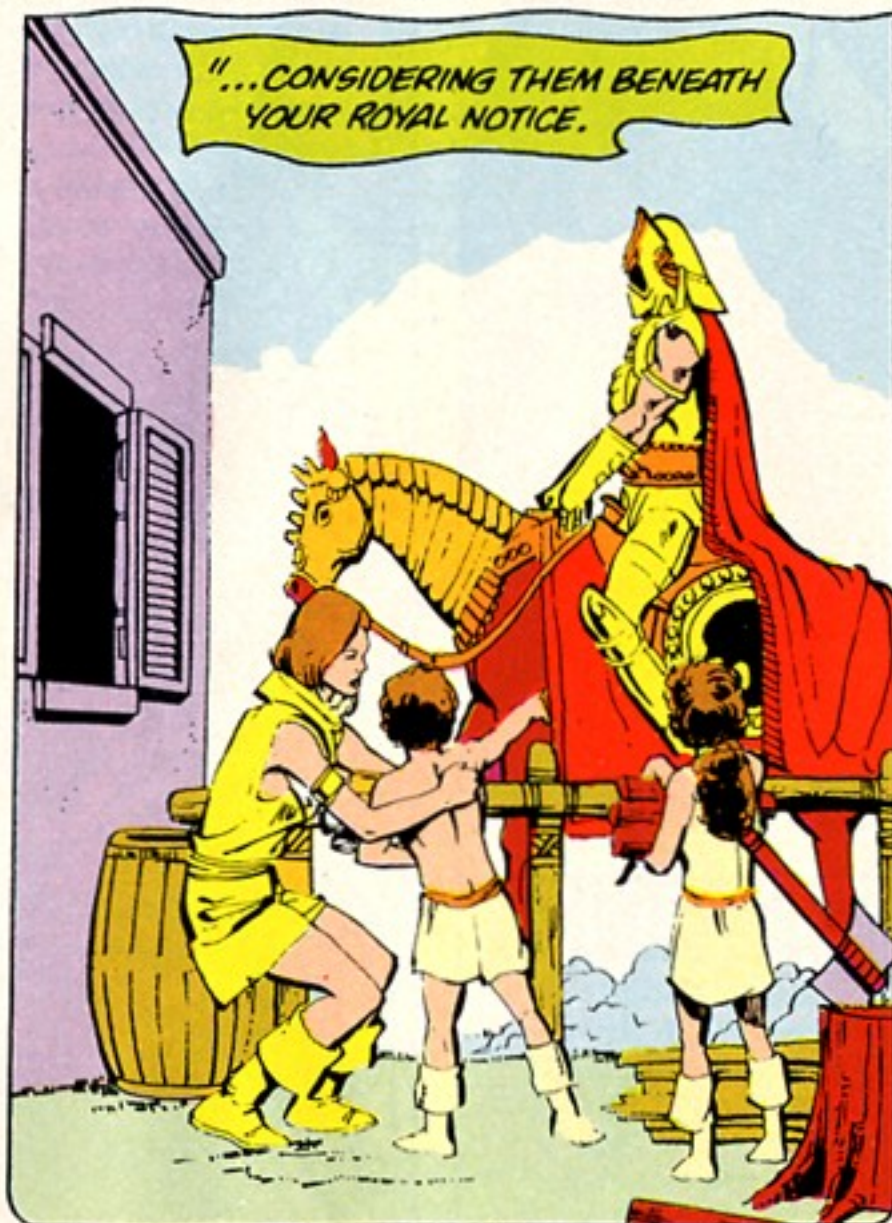
WOULD YOU SEAL THEIR DEATH WARRANTS?

"AND SO, UNKNOWNING, YOU HAVE REIGNED FOR NIGH A SCORE OF YEARS, THINKING YOURSELF SAFE FROM THE PROPHECY REVEALED TO ME IN A MAGICAL TRANCE..."



"...RIDING LIKE A HELMETED DEITY AMONG YOUR QUIVERING SUBJECTS.

"HOW OFTEN YOU MUST HAVE PASSED CLOSE BY THOSE TWO DARK-HAIRED BRATS AS THEY GREW UP..."



"...CONSIDERING THEM BENEATH YOUR ROYAL NOTICE.



"WHEN THEY WERE OF AN AGE TO UNDERSTAND SUCH THINGS, THEY WERE TOLD OF THEIR TRUE HERITAGE..."

"THEY MERELY WORKED AT THE HOMELY TASKS THEIR PSEUDO-PARENTS SET FOR THEM, TILL ONE DAY QUITE RECENTLY--"

"...BUT STILL, HAVING NEVER KNOWN THEIR REAL PARENTS, THEY DID NOT HATE."

TORR...!?

I--I HEARD IT, MY SISTER-- CRIES FROM THE STREET BELOW!

IT SOUNDED LIKE--

LOOK!

IT--IT CAN'T BE--!

"--TO SEE THOSE THEY HAD CALLED MOTHER AND FATHER FOR SO LONG, LYING LIFELESS IN THE DIRT OF THE STREET."

"AND OVER THEIR BODIES, THE ARMORED FORM OF MALAVOL, YOUR CAPTAIN OF GUARDS..."

"...THE MAN WHO HAD PRESIDED OVER THE SLAYING OF THEIR TRUE PARENTS SO MANY YEARS BEFORE."

LET THIS BE A LESSON TO ALL YOU PEASANTS!

CLEAR THE WAY WHEN THE KING'S GUARDS COME RIDING--OR SUFFER THE CONSEQUENCES OF YOUR FOLLY!

"HOW HORRIFIED AND SPEECHLESS THEY MUST HAVE BEEN, FOR AN ETERNAL MOMENT..."

"...TORN BETWEEN WHAT THEY SAW, AND DESIRED TO DO..."

"IF I WERE A NORMAL MORTAL, MY KING, I MIGHT ALMOST SYMPATHIZE WITH THE TWO WIDE-EYED STRIPLINGS, AS THEY GAZED OUT THE WINDOW--"

"...AND THE YEARS OF ADMONITION FROM THEIR FOSTER PARENTS TO KEEP HIDDEN, AND GIVE NO OFFENSE TO THE KING OR HIS MEN."



"YET SO INGRAINED IN THEM WERE THE HABITS OF OBEDIENCE THAT NEITHER BOY NOR GIRL LIFTED A HAND AGAINST MALAVOL AT THAT MOMENT..."

"...BUT MERELY EMBRACED THE POOR DEAD FIGURES, AS IF HOPING TO BREATH PRECIOUS LIFE BACK INTO THEM."

"AND SO IT MIGHT HAVE REMAINED, HAD MALAVOL POSSESSED THE GOOD SENSE TO KEEP HIS OWN MOUTH SHUT."



"BUT OF COURSE HE DID NOT."

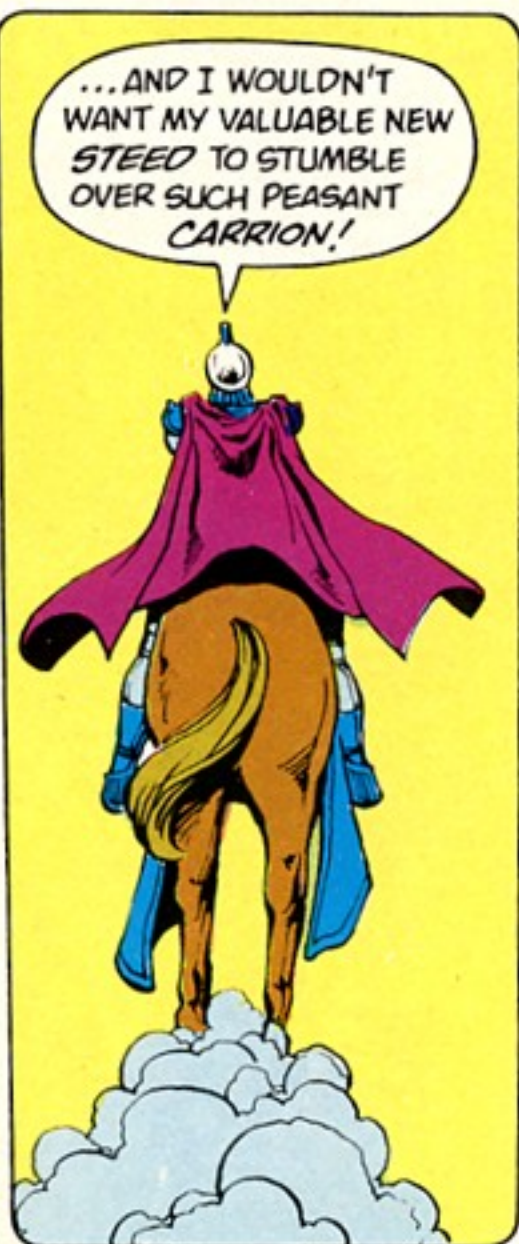
"YOU TWO! BE SURE THESE CARCASSES ARE BURIED AT ONCE..."



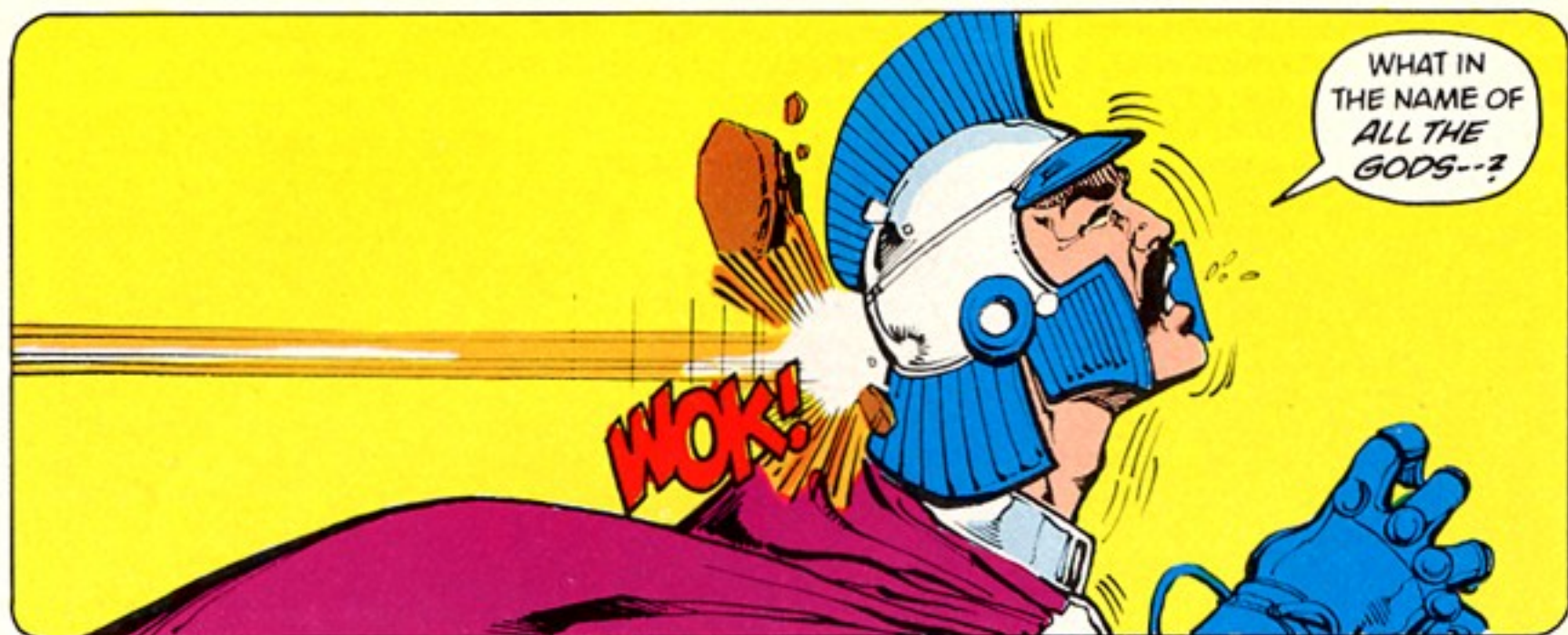
FOR, I'LL BE RIDING BACK THROUGH HERE IN A LITTLE WHILE...



...AND I WOULDN'T WANT MY VALUABLE NEW STEED TO STUMBLE OVER SUCH PEASANT CARRION!"

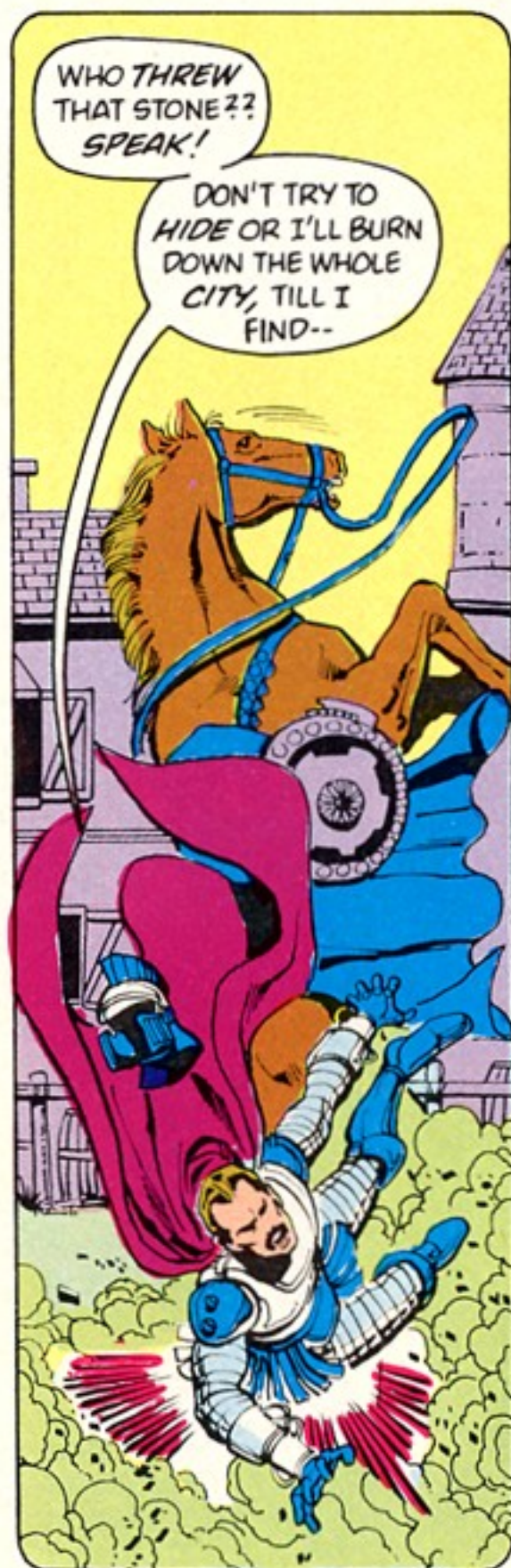






WHAT IN  
THE NAME OF  
ALL THE  
GODS--?

WOK!



WHO THREW  
THAT STONE??  
SPEAK!

DON'T TRY TO  
HIDE OR I'LL BURN  
DOWN THE WHOLE  
CITY, TILL I  
FIND--



I THREW IT,  
YOU LAPDOG TO  
A MURDEROUS  
TYRANT!

NO!  
IT WAS  
I!

TARRA--NO!  
YOU'LL JUST GET  
YOURSELF  
KILLED--LIKE  
THEY WERE!

DO YOU THINK I  
CARE--WHILE THE  
MAN WHO SLEW  
GARTH AND FELECIA  
LIVES?

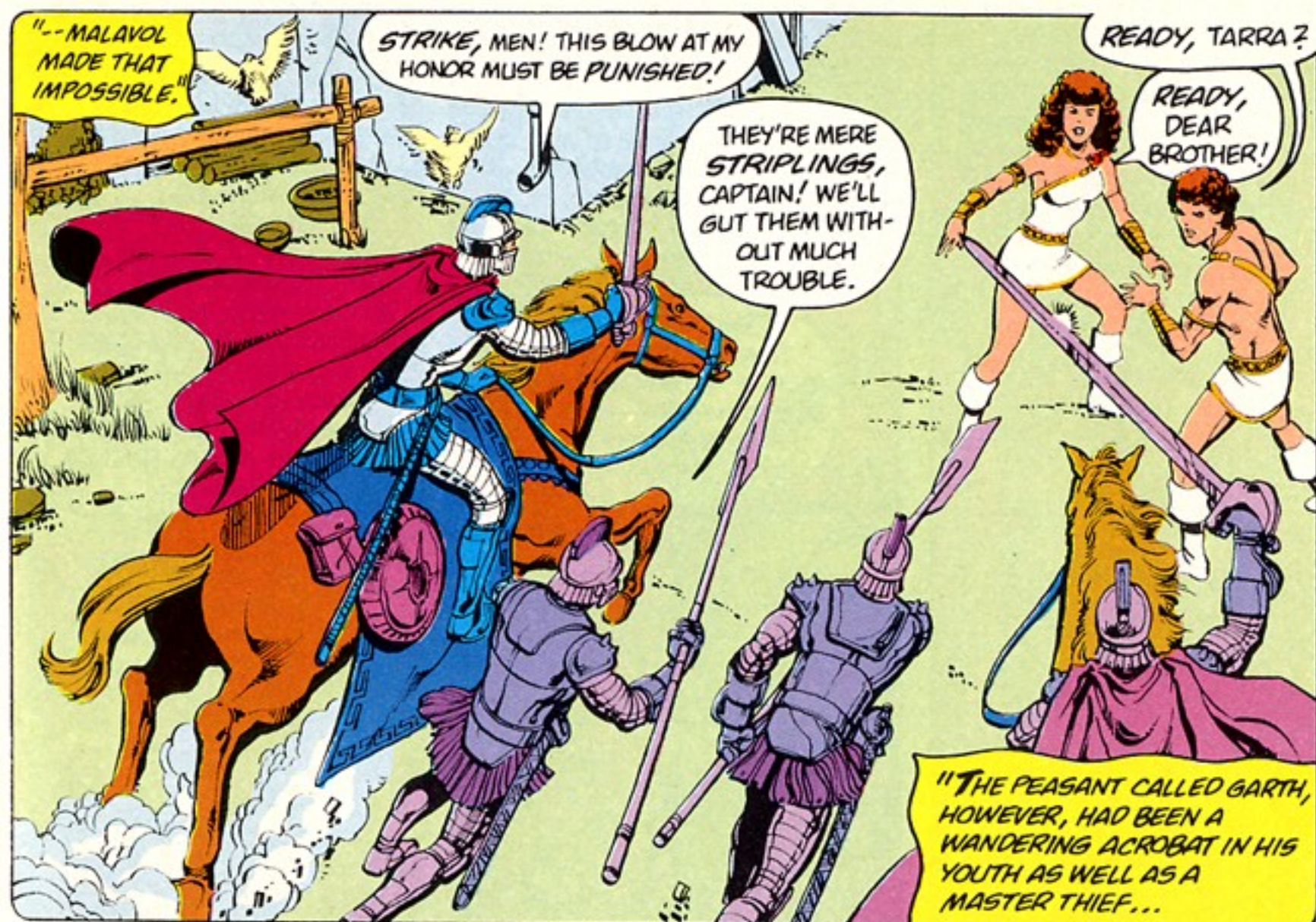
"CONSIDER THE IRONY, MY  
KING: IF NOT FOR THIS PETTY  
INCIDENT, THE DISGUISED  
TWINS MIGHT HAVE LIVED ALL  
THEIR LIVES, WITHOUT STRIKING  
A BLOW IN VENGEANCE.

"BUT NOW, WITH A  
HASTY BLOWING OF HIS  
SHRILL WHISTLE--



IF IT'S DEATH  
YOU COURT, WHELPS  
--THEN DEATH SHALL  
YOU BOTH HAVE!







"FUGITIVES NOW, THE PAIR  
BECAME THIEVES... AND THUS  
CAME TO PASS WHERE WE NOW  
BEHOLD THEM, MY KING. THEY--!"

"THE FLAMES THEY  
PLUNGE THROUGH DO  
NOT SEEM TO HARM  
THEM. I MUST TALK  
WITH THEM, KONJURO!"

HEED MY WORDS, YE  
POOR OFF-SPRING OF MY  
MOST FAITHFUL WARRIOR,  
MY MOST BELOVED  
FRIEND, TARR!

SISTER!  
THAT VOICE-- IT  
SEEMS TO COME FROM  
EVERYWHERE-- YET  
FROM INSIDE MY  
OWN BRAIN--!

I  
HEAR IT,  
TOO.

AND FROM THE  
WORDS IT SPEAKS  
-- THERE'S ONLY  
ONE MAN IT  
CAN BE--!

AYE, CHILDREN! I  
AM TYRANNUS-- AND I  
SPEAK TO YOU AS A FRIEND,  
WHO HAS SEEN THE FOLLY  
OF HIS WAYS.

KONJURO SAYS  
THAT IF YOU WILLINGLY  
SURRENDER YOUR OWN  
WILLS TO HIS, HE CAN  
DRAW YOU BACK FROM  
THE INFERNO INTO WHICH  
YOU HAVE RASHLY HURLED  
YOURSELVES.

DO SO, I  
PRAY YOU...  
FOR YOUR OWN  
SAKES!

TYRANNUS!

THE MAN  
WHO SLEW  
OUR TRUE  
FATHER-- --AND HOUNDED  
OUR MOTHER TO  
HER DEATH!

"AS YOU WISH,  
ROYAL TYRANNUS.  
SPEAK... AND  
THEY SHALL  
INSTANTLY HEAR."



TOO TRUE,  
ALAS... BUT A MAN  
NOW VASTLY CHANGED  
AND REPENTANT,  
AND WILLING TO SHARE  
HIS THRONE WITH  
THOSE HE WRONGED  
IN HIS TRAGIC  
YOUTH!

DO NOT DOOM  
YOURSELVES WITH  
FOOLISH ACTIONS--  
WHEN I OFFER  
YOU TWO-THIRDS  
OF A TRIPLE  
CROWN!

Y-YOU  
EXPECT US--  
TO TRUST  
YOU!?

YOU--WHO,  
THEY SAY,  
MURDERED  
EVEN HIS  
OWN ROYAL  
FATHER?

WHAT MEANS  
THAT TO YOU,  
COMPARED TO  
THE RICHES AND  
POWER I WILL  
GRANT YOU?

THINK OF WHAT  
I OFFER-- COMPARED  
TO WHAT LIES BELOW,  
EVEN IF YOU SURVIVE  
YOUR FALL!

THINK,  
MY DEAR  
YOUNG  
FRIENDS--  
**THINK!**

AND, BECAUSE THEY ARE  
ONLY HUMAN, AFTER ALL,  
TARRA AND TORR DO INDEED  
THINK-- AND THEY REMEM-  
BER THIS NIGHT'S STRANGE  
DOINGS--

-- THE ADVENTURE IN  
KONJURO'S LONELY  
TOWER, FROM WHICH  
THEY FLED, PURSUED  
BY A THING FROM  
BEYOND.

THEY REMEMBER THE  
GHOST-LIKE MENTORR  
WHO APPEARED, AND BADE  
THEM SEEK OUT THE  
SWORD OF ULTIMATE  
SORCERY--

-- DOWN A DARK-  
YAWNING PIT WHICH  
LED DOWN TO THE  
PLACE CALLED  
EARTHWORLD.

IT WAS, THE MENTORS  
SAID, BUT THE FIRST OF  
FOUR WORLDS THE  
YOUNG THIEVES MUST  
FOLLOW IN PURSUIT OF  
WHATEVER DESTINY IS  
HELD IN STORE FOR THEM.



YET WHAT A  
WORLD IT  
TURNED OUT  
TO BE!

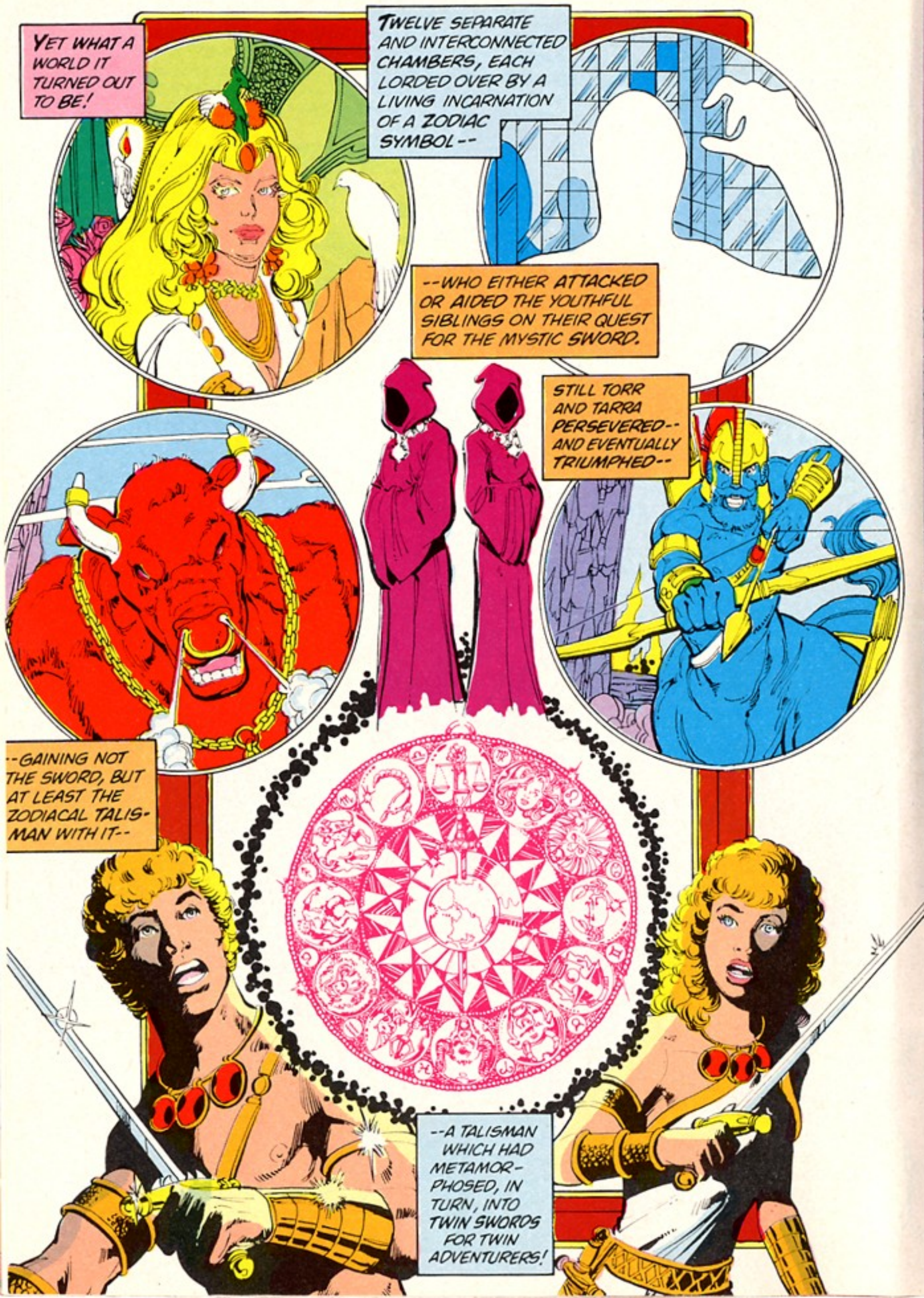
TWELVE SEPARATE  
AND INTERCONNECTED  
CHAMBERS, EACH  
LORDED OVER BY A  
LIVING INCARNATION  
OF A ZODIAC  
SYMBOL--

--WHO EITHER ATTACKED  
OR AIDED THE YOUTHFUL  
SIBLINGS ON THEIR QUEST  
FOR THE MYSTIC SWORD.

STILL TORR  
AND TARRA  
PERSEVERED--  
AND EVENTUALLY  
TRIUMPHED--

--GAINING NOT  
THE SWORD, BUT  
AT LEAST THE  
ZODIACAL TALIS-  
MAN WITH IT--

--A TALISMAN  
WHICH HAD  
METAMOR-  
PHOSED, IN  
TURN, INTO  
TWIN SWORDS  
FOR TWIN  
ADVENTURERS!





SUCH ARE TORR'S AND  
TARRA'S THOUGHTS AS

WELL, MY YOUNG  
FRIENDS? HAVE YOU  
CONSIDERED MY  
GENEROUS OFFER?

AYE,  
TYRANNUS--  
AND WE HURL  
IT BACK IN  
YOUR TEETH!

WE'LL MAKE  
NO DEALS WITH  
THE SLAYERS OF  
ALL THOSE WHO  
LOVED US!

FOR ONCE,  
BROTHER,  
YOU'RE NO MORE  
IMPETUOUS THAN  
I'D BE!

SO BE IT! BUT KNOW YOU THAT  
MY DEMONS SHALL DOG YOUR  
TRAIL, WHILE YOU SEEK THE  
SWORD OF ULTIMATE  
SORCERY--

--AND EVEN IF  
YOU FIND IT, IT  
WILL EVENTU-  
ALLY WIND UP  
IN MY ROYAL  
HANDS, WHERE  
IT BELO--

MILORD  
KING...

MY SPELL FADES AS THEY  
PASS FURTHER INTO THE WORLD  
BELOW, AND THEY CAN NO  
LONGER HEAR YOU.

CURSE THOSE  
INFERNAL MEDDLERS,  
MENTORR AND MENTARRA  
--MY FORMER  
COUNCILORS!

IT WAS THEY  
WHO FORGED THAT  
MAGICAL SWORD--

AND NOW, EVEN THOUGH THEY  
HAVE ENTERED AN ETHEREAL STATE,  
IT SEEMS THEY HOLD IT OVER YOUR  
HEAD, EH, MY KING?

GIVE UP NOT SO EASILY! THE  
WAY BEFORE THE YOUNG THIEVES  
IS LONG AND HARD... AND THEY  
MAY YET FALTER AND FAIL...  
AND DIE.

IF THEY DON'T, KONJURO,  
I DEPEND UPON YOU TO  
FIND STILL ANOTHER WAY  
TO REACH AND DESTROY  
THEM.

FOR IF I FALL BEFORE  
THEM AND THE SWORD--  
SO SHALL YOU!

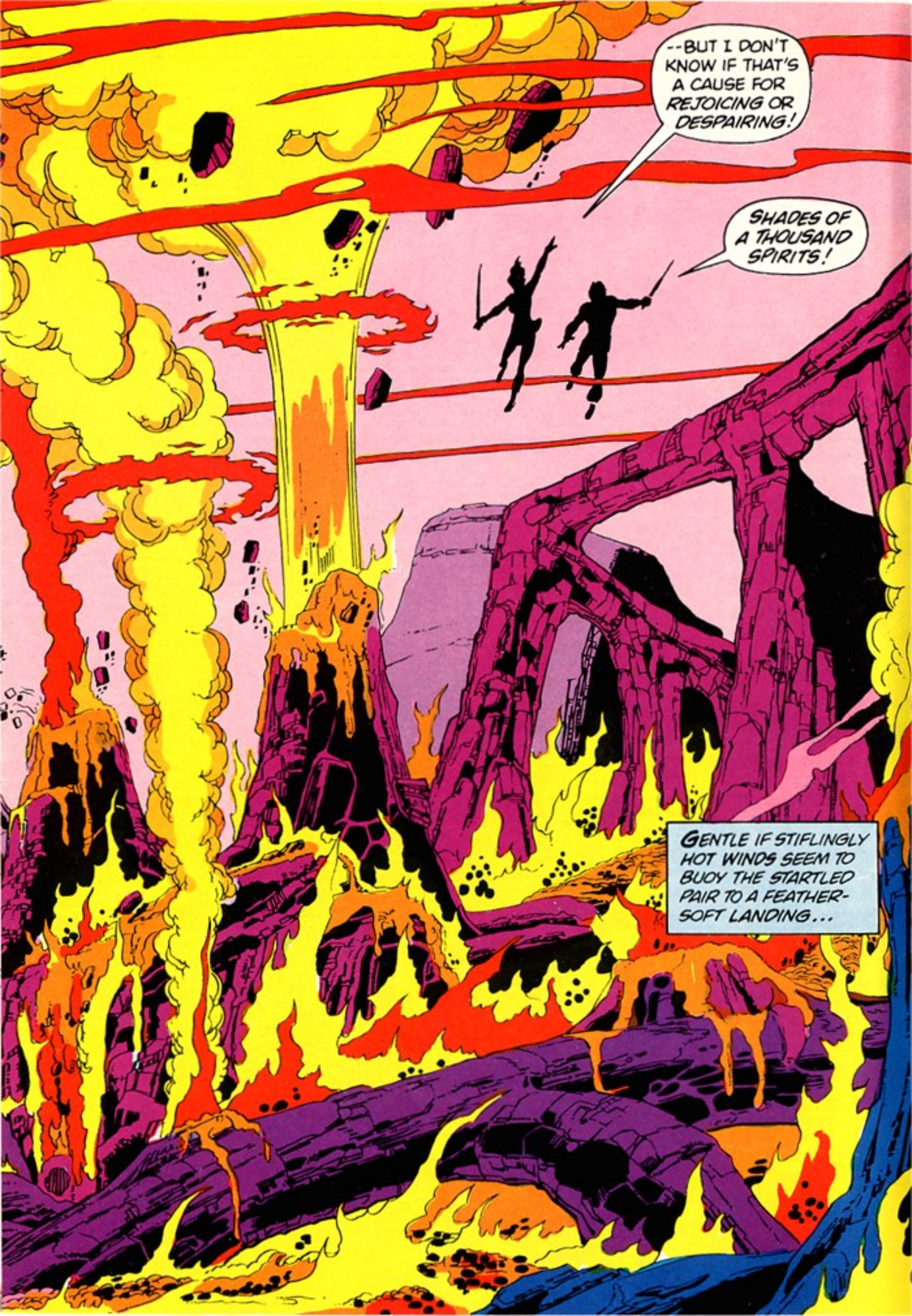
AS, NO LONGER WITHIN  
EVEN SORCEROUS EAR-  
SHOT OF THE USURPER  
OF DARKSPIRE...

BY THE GODS!  
THE FLAMES DON'T  
REALLY BURN US--  
EVEN SLOW OUR FALL  
--BUT IT SEEMS WE'VE  
BEEN DESCENDING  
FOREVER.

IT'S NO MERE  
LAND OF FLAME  
WE ENTER, TORR--  
BUT OF WIZARDRY  
AND WONDER.

IN FACT,  
IT SEEMS OUR  
DOWNWARD  
PLUNGE IS  
ABOUT TO  
END--



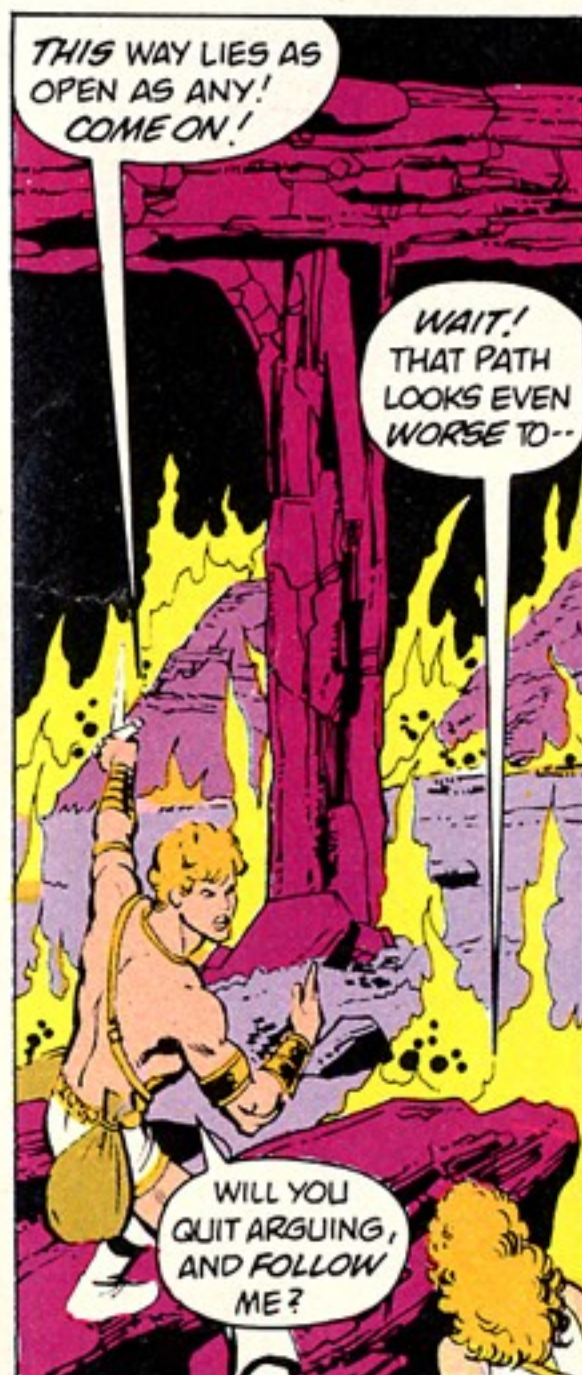


--BUT I DON'T  
KNOW IF THAT'S  
A CAUSE FOR  
REJOICING OR  
DESPAIRING!

SHADES OF  
A THOUSAND  
SPIRITS!

GENTLE IF STIFLINGLY  
HOT WINDS SEEM TO  
BUOY THE STARTLED  
PAIR TO A FEATHER-  
SOFT LANDING...







YET, AS TARRA'S LITHE FORM  
VANISHES FROM VIEW...

NOW, WHAT  
MADE ME PICK  
A FIGHT WITH  
HER THAT WAY?

WELL,  
NOTHING TO  
BE DONE FOR  
IT NOW.



MY ONLY HOPE  
IS TO FIND THE  
SWORD, WHEREVER  
IT FELL--

-- THEN USE IT  
TO FIND HER, AND  
GET US BOTH OUT  
OF HERE --



-- BEFORE WE  
BOTH PERISH OF  
THIS HORRIBLE  
HEAT!

WELL,  
WELL,  
WELL...!



HERMINUS, OLD THIEF, IT  
SEEMS YOU WERE RIGHT TO  
FOLLOW THOSE TWO CUBS!

ONE OF THEM'S LIKELY TO FIND  
THE SWORD OF ULTIMATE  
SORCERY YOU'VE BEEN  
SEEKING FOR SO LONG.



'T WILL THEN BE  
NO TRICK FOR A  
PROFESSIONAL  
THIEF LIKE YOUR-  
SELF TO WREST  
IT FROM THOSE  
AMATEURS.

BUT... WHICH  
TO FOLLOW?



WHAT SAY WE  
LET THE GODS  
DECIDE?





SOON AFTERWARD, UPON THE LEFTWARD  
PATH CHOSEN BY THE HEADSTRONG TORR...

SO HOT--AND GETTING  
HOTTER EVERY MINUTE!

CAN'T SEE FAR ENOUGH  
AHEAD TO KNOW IF I TOOK  
THE RIGHT PATH OR NOT!

WHY DID I  
GET SO PUSHY  
WITH TARRA,  
ANYWAY?

WE SHOULD'VE  
STUCK TOGETHER,  
NOT SEPARATED.

TOO LATE NOW,  
THOUGH. MY WAY BACK  
IS ALREADY BLOCKED BY  
FIRE AND LAVA.

GOT TO KEEP GOING--  
FIND THE SWORD, AND  
THEN TARRA, BEFORE--

OH, MENTORS--  
WHERE ARE YOU,  
NOW THAT I  
REALLY NEED  
YOU??

GODS!  
NOW THE  
FLAMES ARE  
SHOOTING UP  
BEFORE ME,  
AS WELL!

WAIT! I JUST REMEMBERED  
--THE ZODIACAL TALISMAN  
THAT WE RECEIVED ALONG  
WITH OUR BLADES!

WE KEPT  
THEM WHEN WE  
JUMPED, AND  
PERHAPS--

YOU ARE  
CORRECT,  
TORR.

MENTARRA  
IS EVEN NOW  
APPEARING TO  
YOUR WANDERING  
SISTER--

--BUT MENTOR MAY BE  
OF SMALL SERVICE TO  
YOU.

I HAD NO  
IDEA I COULD  
SUMMON YOU--  
ONCE I REACHED  
FIREWORLD!



ONCE AND ONCE  
ONLY IN EACH OF  
THE *FOUR WORLDS*  
OF THE *ELEMENTS*  
CAN YOU CALL UPON  
US, LAD.

THIS IS  
THAT TIME.  
SPEAK!

C-CAN YOU  
TAKE ME TO  
THE *SWORD*--  
OR TO *TARRA*?

THAT IS A  
WAY YOU MUST  
FIND FOR YOUR-  
SELF, ALAS.

THEN SHOW ME  
SOMETHING COOL TO  
QUENCH MY THIRST,  
I BEG OF YOU...  
BEFORE I PERISH!

AH, NOW AT LEAST  
YOU HAVE ASKED  
THE PROPER  
QUESTION-- WHICH  
ALONE IS HALF  
THE STRUGGLE  
TO FINDING THE  
ANSWER.

I SHALL  
SHOW YOU  
WHAT YOU  
ASK, TORR--

--AYE,  
AND SO  
VERY MUCH  
MORE--

--IN THE  
*CHALICE OF  
LIGHT!*



IT-IT'S  
TRULY A THING  
OF BEAUTY,  
MENTOR!

BUT WHERE IS IT?  
HOW CAN I REACH IT AND  
QUENCH MY THIRST--SO I  
CAN STAY ALIVE LONG  
ENOUGH TO FIND *TARRA*  
AND THE *SWORD*?









--IT'S A  
TREASURE  
CHAMBER!





EVEN KONJURO'S SEA  
KEEP DIDN'T POSSESS SO  
MUCH GOLD--SO MANY  
SPARKLING JEWELS!

STILL, THEY  
WON'T GET ME  
THE CHALICE  
MENTARRA TOLD  
ME ABOUT.

I'VE GOT TO BECOME A WARRIOR IF  
I WANT TO QUENCH MY THIRST--  
LET ALONE TRIUMPH!

THIS SWORD  
--SO MUCH LOVE-  
LIER THAN THE  
ONE I GAINED  
ABOVE--



AND THIS  
ARMOR!  
PERHAPS IT'S  
TIME I LOOKED  
NO MORE LIKE  
A STARVELING  
THIEF--

--AND MORE LIKE THE DAUGHTER  
OF THE GREATEST WARRIOR OF  
THE OUTER WORLD.

NO--NOT JUST HIS  
DAUGHTER--BUT A  
WARRIOR IN MY  
OWN RIGHT!



THIS ARMOR-- SHIELD  
--SWORD-- SO RICH AND  
GLEAMING-- I FEEL I  
REALLY COULD CONQUER  
THIS WORLD OF FIRE!



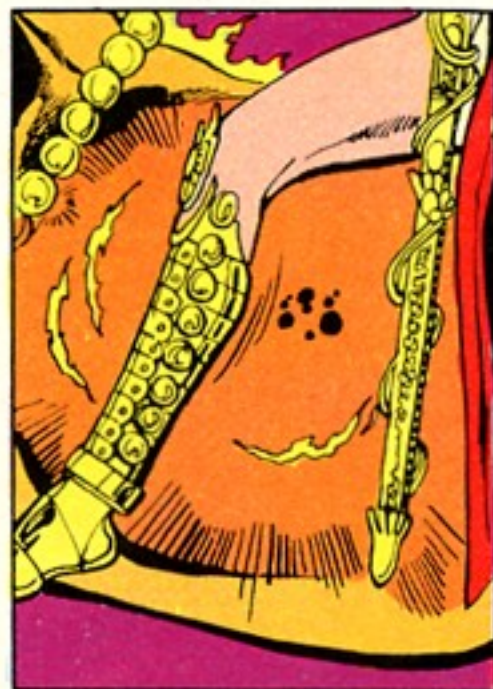
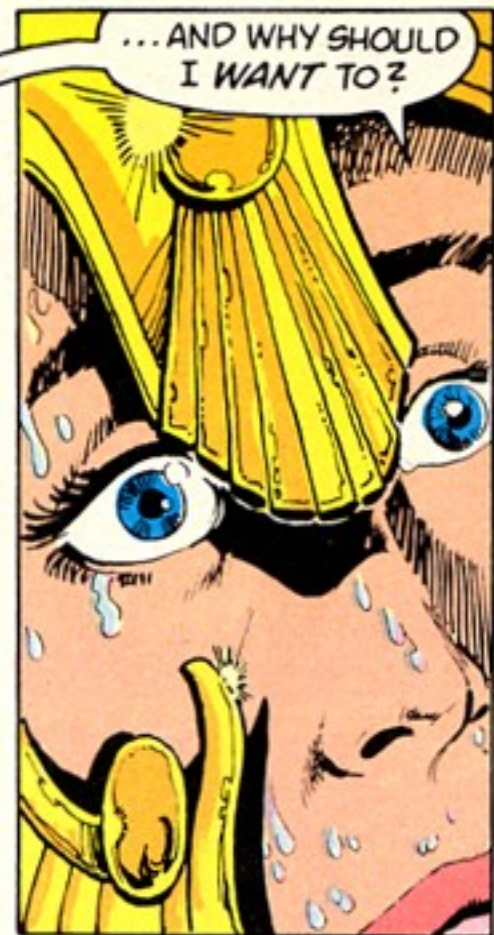
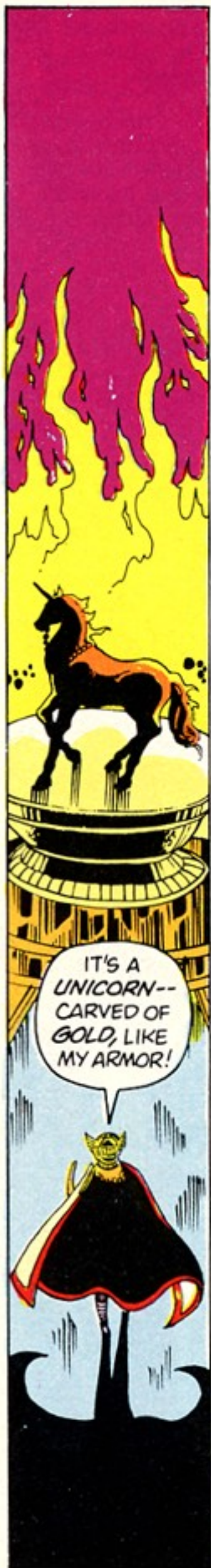
STILL HOT,  
THOUGH--SO  
THIRSTY! I'D  
BETTER FIND  
THE CHALICE  
QUICKLY,  
BEFORE--

EH?




WHAT'S THAT--  
IN THAT SECOND  
CHAMBER BEYOND,  
FRAMED BY  
A CRIMSON  
BLAZE?









IT'S  
ALIVE!!

NEXT MOMENT, IT SEEMS AS IF TREASURE  
CHAMBER, PROFUSELY-SCATTERED WEALTH,  
AYE, EVEN FIREWORLD ITSELF, HAVE ALL BUT  
VANISHED FROM TARRA'S FEVERED SIGHT--

--AS THE GLISTENING  
METALLIC STALLION  
BUCKS AND HEAVES,  
AS IF TO HURL ITS  
HUMAN RIDER TO A  
FIERY DEATH, A  
MILLION MILES  
BELOW AND AWAY!

AND TARRA HANGS ON--  
FOR LIFE, FOR VENGEANCE--

--AND PERHAPS MOST OF  
ALL, FOR THE SAKE OF  
HER BROTHER TORR!



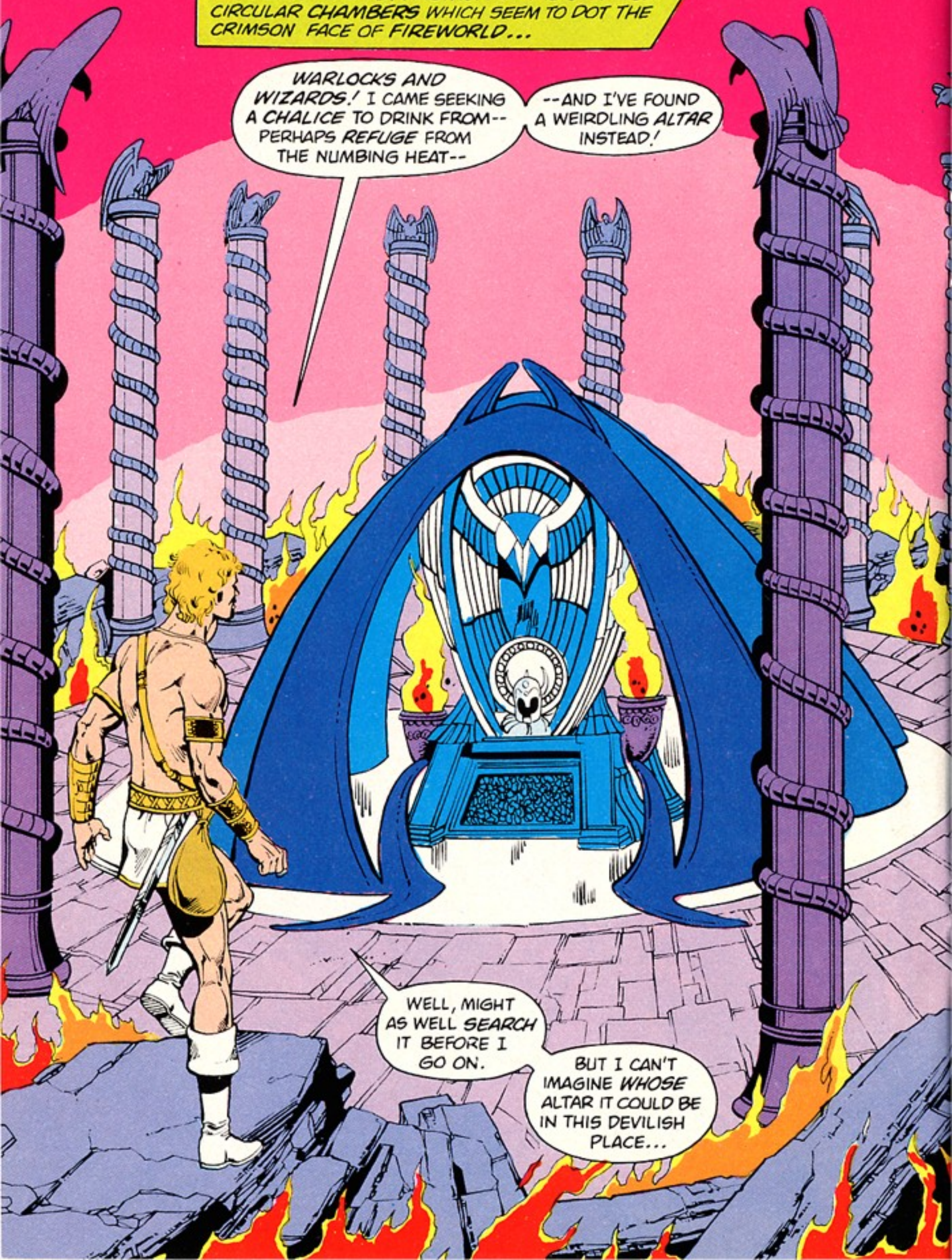
MEANWHILE, USING THE WORDS OF MENTORR AS THE FOUNDATION OF HIS ACTIONS, TORR HIMSELF HAS WANDERED INTO YET ANOTHER OF THE STRANGE CIRCULAR CHAMBERS WHICH SEEM TO DOT THE CRIMSON FACE OF FIREWORLD...

WARLOCKS AND WIZARDS! I CAME SEEKING A CHALICE TO DRINK FROM-- PERHAPS REFUGE FROM THE NUMBING HEAT--

--AND I'VE FOUND A WEIRDLING ALTAR INSTEAD!

WELL, MIGHT AS WELL SEARCH IT BEFORE I GO ON.

BUT I CAN'T IMAGINE WHOSE ALTAR IT COULD BE IN THIS DEVILISH PLACE...



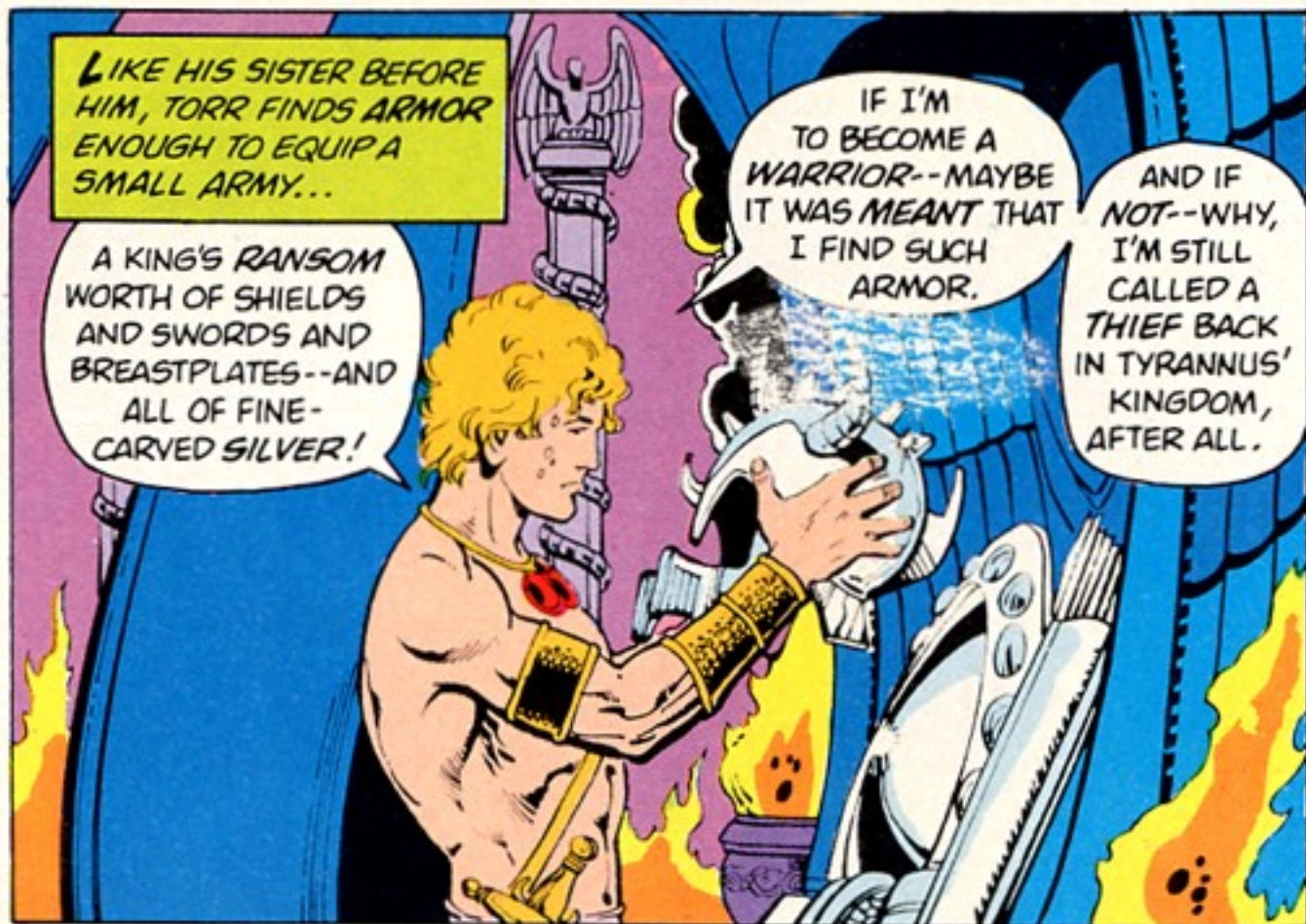




...FOR I'VE CERTAINLY SEEN NO ONE ABOUT!

LIKE HIS SISTER BEFORE HIM, TORR FINDS ARMOR ENOUGH TO EQUIP A SMALL ARMY...

A KING'S RANSOM WORTH OF SHIELDS AND SWORDS AND BREASTPLATES--AND ALL OF FINE-CARVED SILVER!



IF I'M TO BECOME A WARRIOR--MAYBE IT WAS MEANT THAT I FIND SUCH ARMOR.

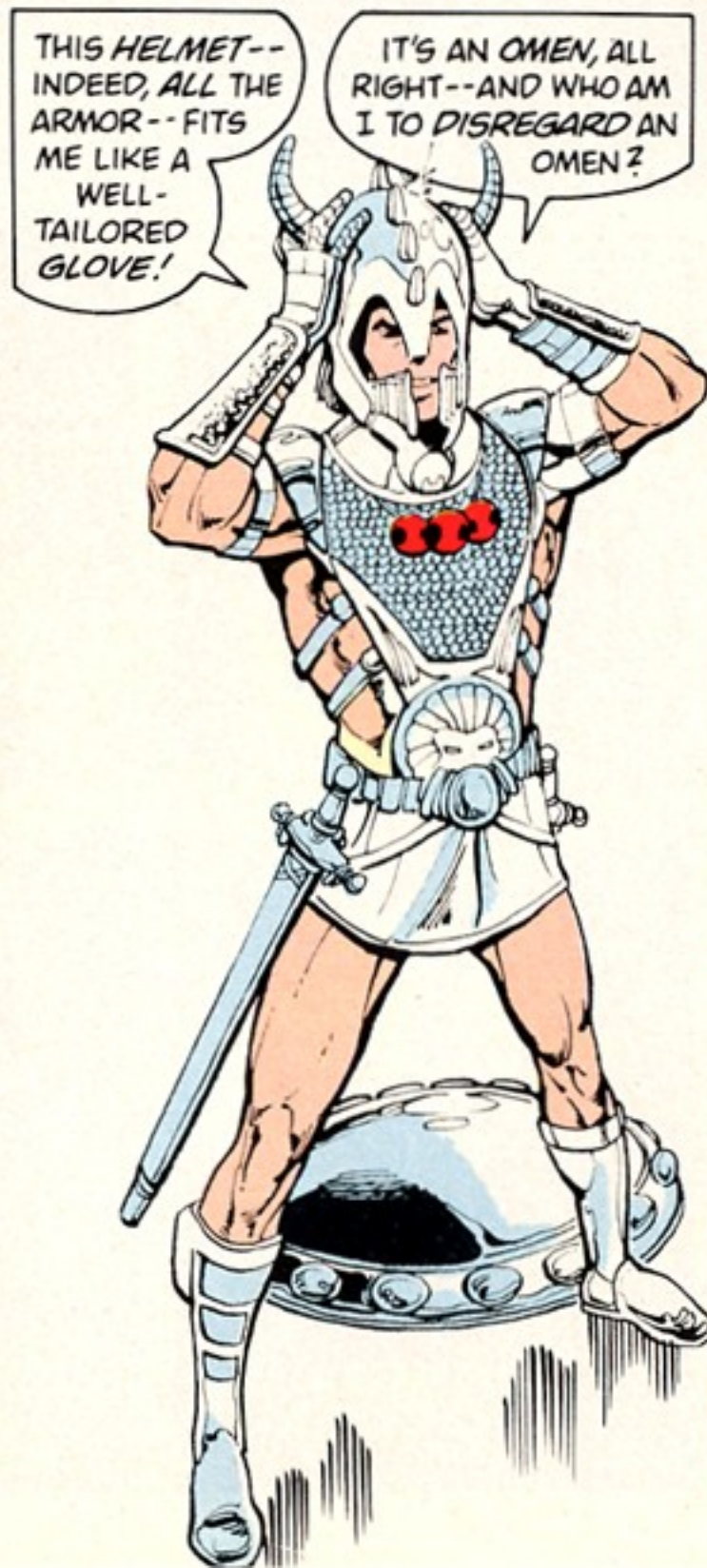
AND IF NOT--WHY, I'M STILL CALLED A THIEF BACK IN TYRANNUS' KINGDOM, AFTER ALL.

THIS HELMET--INDEED, ALL THE ARMOR--FITS ME LIKE A WELL-TAILORED GLOVE!

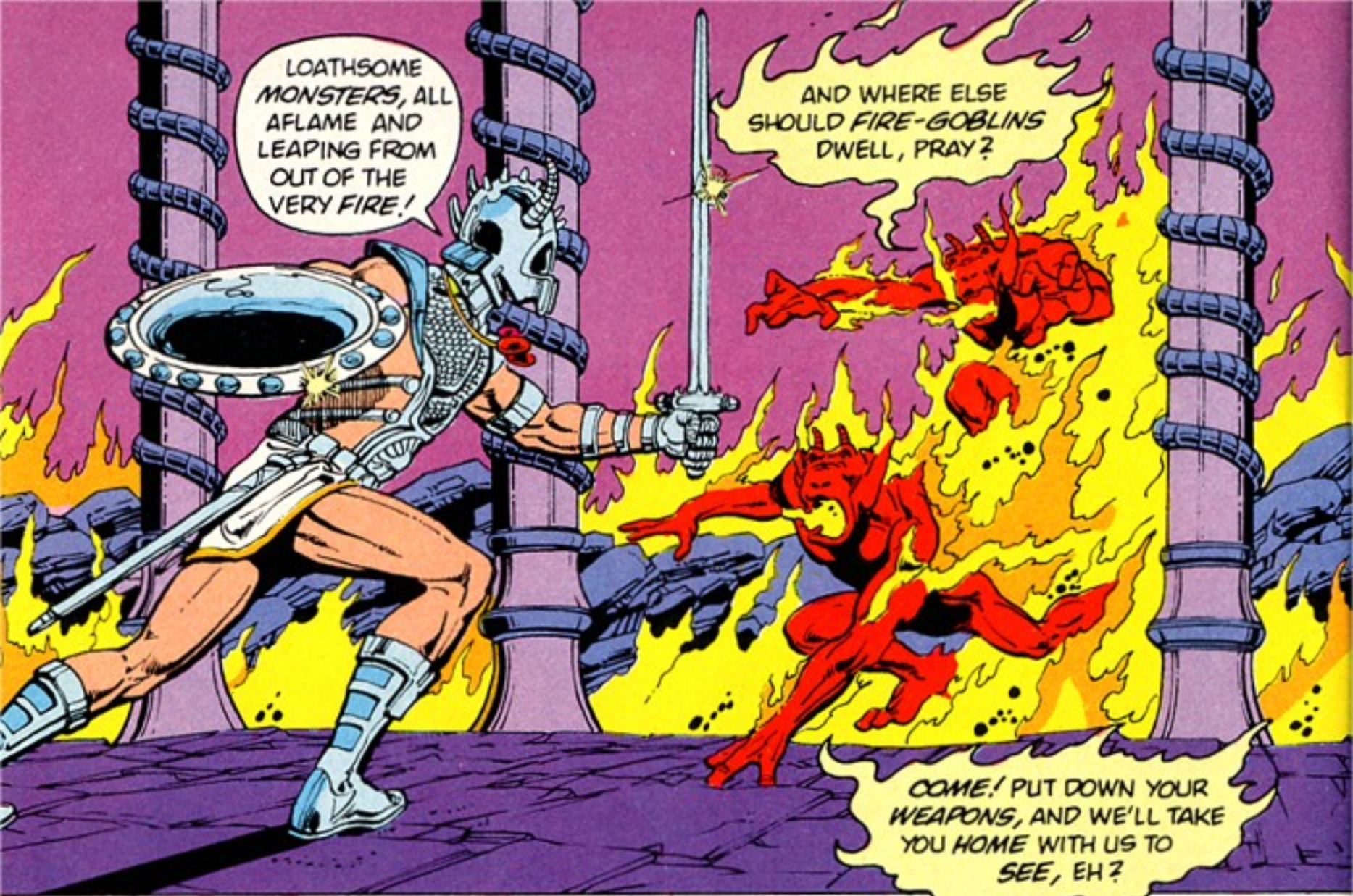
IT'S AN OMEN, ALL RIGHT--AND WHO AM I TO DISREGARD AN OMEN?

THE BOWS AND ARROWS I CAN DO WITHOUT--THEY'RE THE WEAPONS OF COWARDS AND WEAKLINGS, BUT--

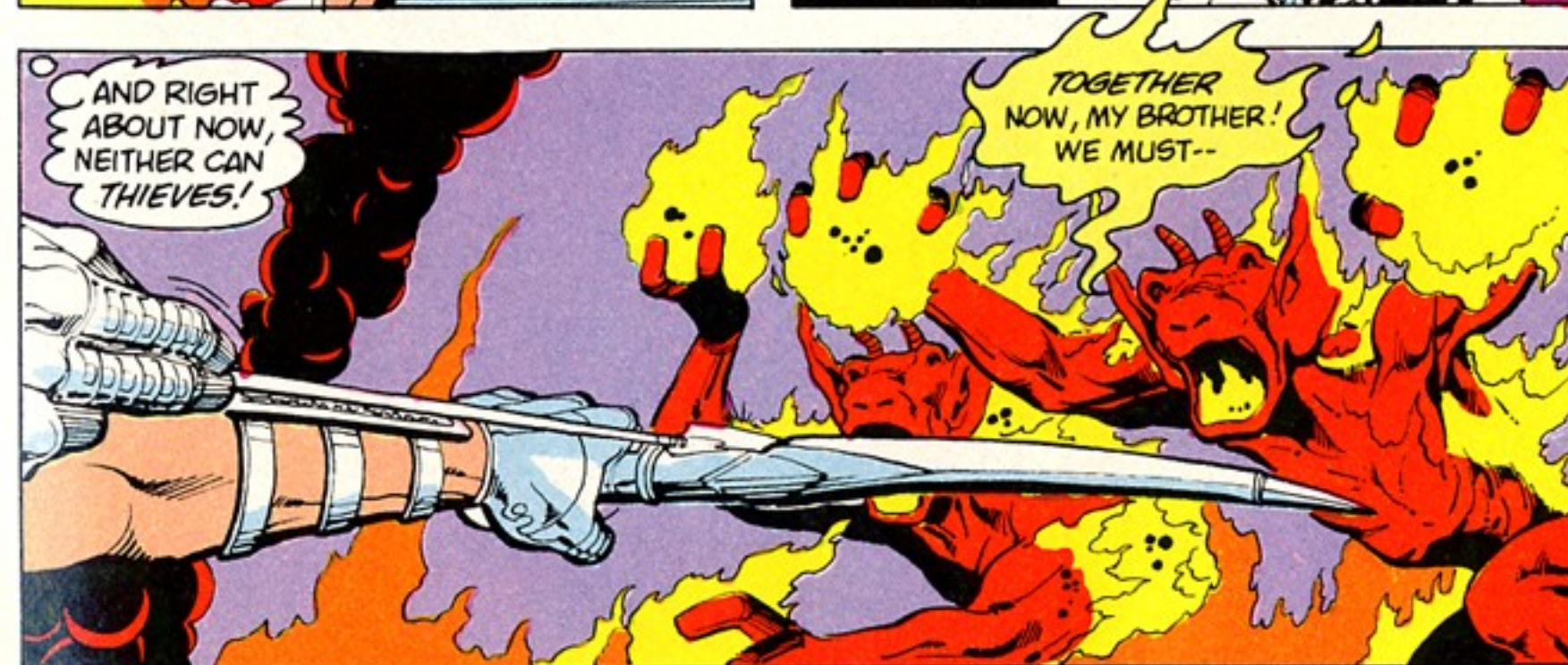
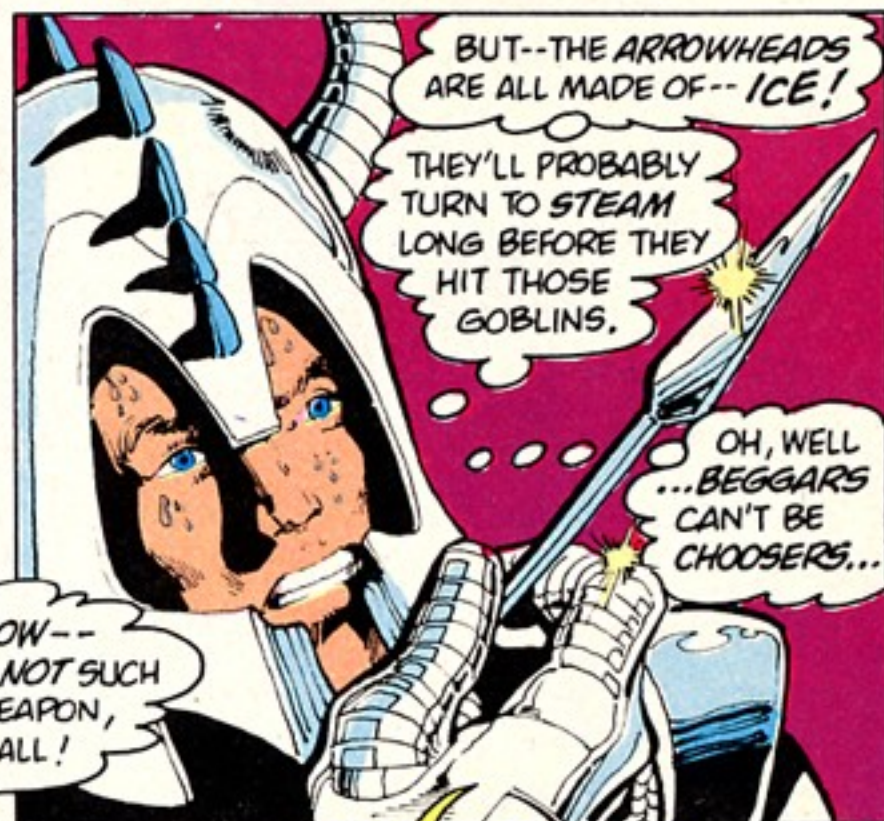
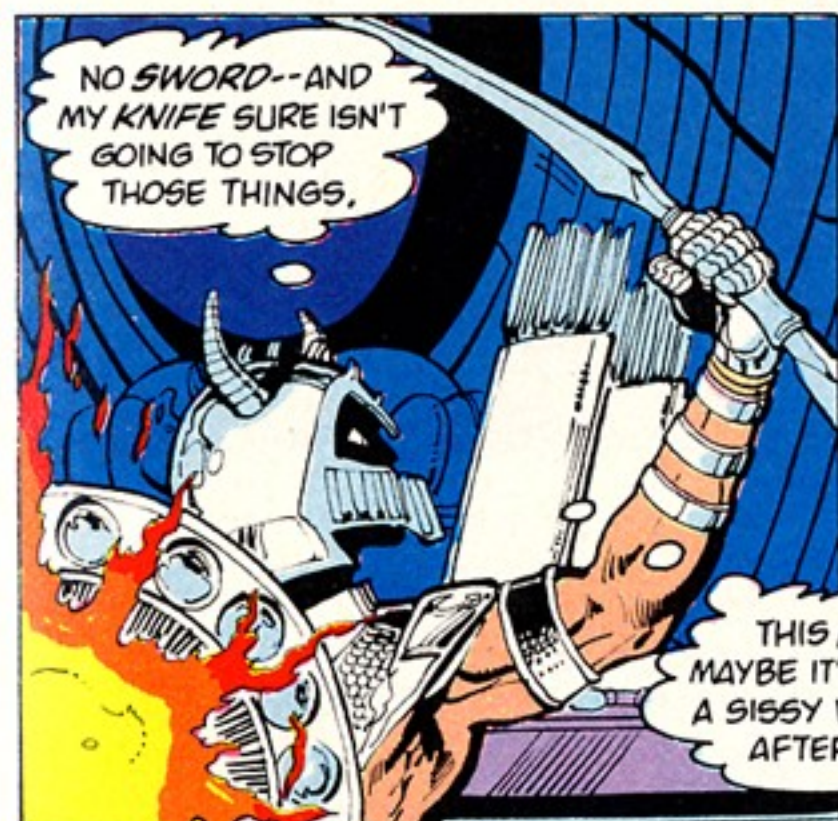
WHAT--?









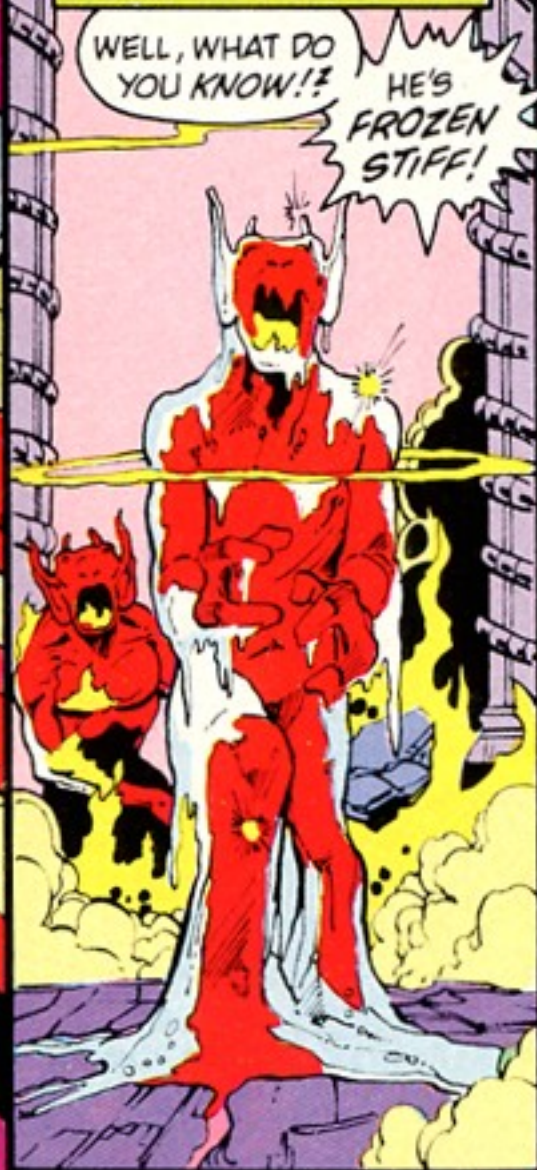




THE FIRE-GOBLINS CRY IS CUT OFF IN MID-SHOUT, HOWEVER, AS--TO TORR'S GREAT SHOCK-- THE ICE-ARROW STRIKES HOME--



AND WHEN CLOUDS OF STEAM AND SMOKE HAVE BLOWN AWAY--



WELL, WHAT DO YOU KNOW!?

HE'S FROZEN STIFF!

ALL RIGHT--YOU FUGITIVES FROM A FIREPLACE--COME AHEAD!

THE SNOW-SHOE'S ON THE OTHER FOOT NOW, ISN'T IT?



GOOD! THEY'RE ALL FLEEING--THOSE WHO STILL CAN, ANYWAY.

I DIDN'T CARE MUCH FOR ICING YOU DOWN, OLD BUDDY, BUT YOU OUGHT TO BE MORE HOSPITABLE TO STRANGERS.

YOU'LL PROBABLY MELT BACK TO NORMAL IN A LITTLE WHILE--

I WILL SAY THIS, THOUGH--

--EVEN WHEN YOUR MOUTH'S AS DRY AS THE DESERT, VICTORY STILL TASTES SWEET!



--BUT I WON'T BE HERE TO SEE IT.





ELSEWHERE, A YOUTHFUL FIGURE WITH ARMOR TO MATCH HER GOLDEN TRESSES SITS ASTRIDE A GALLOPING UNICORN WITH MANE LIKE FIRE...

WELL, AT LEAST IT'S STOPPED TRYING TO TOSS ME INTO THE LAVA, THANK HELIOS FOR SMALL FAVORS! IT EVEN RESPONDS TO MY COMMANDS ALREADY, AND--

WAIT!  
WHAT'S THAT??

IS IT JUST THAT OVERWHELMING HEAT GETTING TO ME--BAKING ME INSIDE THIS ARMOR--

--OR IS THAT A MAN LYING THERE, UPON THAT BIER IN THE MIDDLE OF THIS LAKE OF LAVA?

AYE, THAT IT IS-- UNLESS THE HEAT'S DRIVEN ME BALMY!

A HANDSOME LAD, TOO-- FULL OF MANLY BEAUTY-- A STRANGE SORT OF HARMONY ABOUT HIS FEATURES, SOMEHOW.

I FEEL-- I'VE SEEN HIM BEFORE, SOMEWHERE-- BUT THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE.

I...DON'T KNOW QUITE WHY...

...BUT I CAN'T RESIST KISSING HIM.


AH! HE'S WAKING UP!

I HOPE HE WON'T MIND THAT I--

MIND, LASS?!

RESIST? NAY-- I WANT TO KISS HIM!





NAY, WHY SHOULD I MIND--

--WHEN IT WAS I WHO PUT THE VERY IDEA INTO YOUR MIND??

BY THE GODS!

THE MAN I KISSED-- HE'S TURNED INTO SOME KIND OF TENTACLED MONSTER--

--IF HE WAS EVER TRULY HUMAN AT ALL!

CAN'T-- GET FREE! CHOKING ME-- I CAN'T--

HOLD! WHAT'S THAT MOVEMENT OVER THERE-- NEAR MY MOUNT?

I HOPE YOU WON'T OBJECT TO MY BORROWING YOUR HORNED STEED, DEAR CHILD.

SOMEHOW, YOU DON'T LOOK AS IF YOU'LL BE NEEDING HIM AGAIN.



HERMINUS!

I'M SORRY TO DO THIS LASS-- REALLY I AM.

BUT I SEEK THE SWORD OF ULTIMATE SORCERY, TOO, YOU KNOW!

THEN, THE MASTER THIEF IS GONE--

--AND TARRA HAS FAR MORE PRESSING CONCERNS:

HERE'S WHERE I FIND OUT IF THIS FANCY SWORD I TRADED MY OLD ONE FOR IS GOOD FOR ANYTHING BESIDES SHOW!



APPARENTLY NOT!

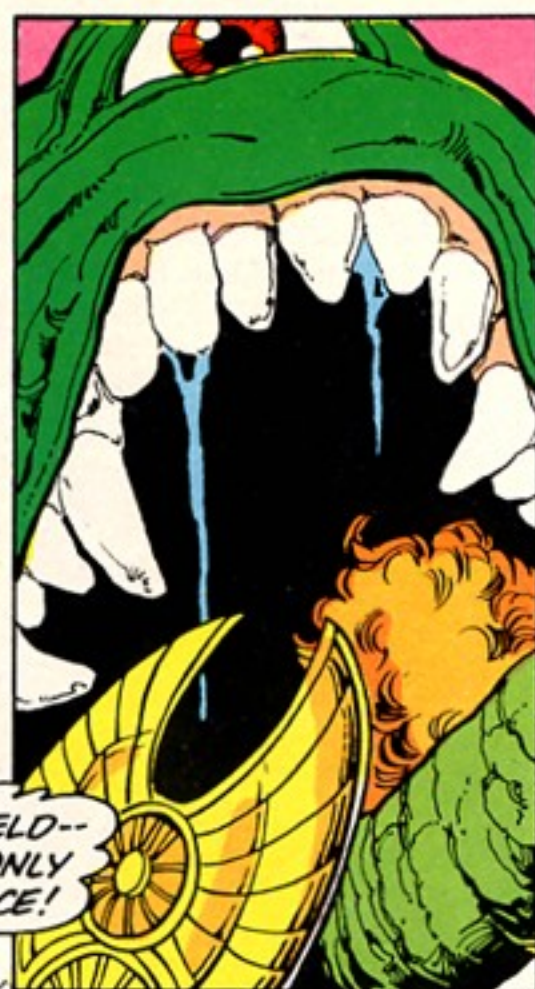


THE OCTOPOID'S STRENGTH!  
MY OWN'S LIKE A CHILD'S  
BESIDE IT!

IT'S DRAWING  
ME TOWARD  
IT-- INTO ITS  
GAPING  
MAW!



MY SHIELD--  
IT'S MY ONLY  
CHANCE!



YAAARRG

I--I  
DID  
IT!

IT'S HUGE JAWS  
CRUSHED THE SHIELD  
--SHATTERED IT--  
BUT THE JAGGED EDGES  
ARE HURTING ITS  
SOFT INSIDES!



IT'S SCUTTling BACK  
INTO THE MOLTEN LAVA  
WHERE IT MUST LIVE!

IF ITS PAIN HADN'T  
DISTRACTED IT-- IT WOULD  
HAVE TAKEN ME WITH IT!



THE MONSTER MUST HAVE READ  
MY MIND SOMEHOW-- USED AN  
IMAGE OF MANLY BEAUTY  
BURIED THERE-- TO LURE ME.

WELL, I  
SURVIVED ITS  
ATTACK-- JUST  
BARELY--



-- BUT I LOST  
MY UNICORN--  
MY WEAPONS--  
EVERYTHING!

STILL SO HOT-- AND  
WEARIER THAN EVER--  
BUT I CAN'T GO  
ON WITHOUT  
A SWORD.

MUST GO  
BACK TO THE  
CHAMBER OF  
SPLENDOR--  
FOR MY  
OLD  
ONE--



-- AND IF  
IT ISN'T  
THERE-- I'M  
IN DEEP  
TROUBLE!



AS, ON ANOTHER OF THE MYRIAD  
ROCK-BRIDGES WHICH FORM THE  
SOLE ROADWAYS OF FIREWORLD...

SO! I THOUGHT YOU TWO  
FIRE-GOBLINS HAD ALL GONE  
SKITTERING BACK INTO THE  
LAVA POOL.

TOO SCARED EVEN  
FOR THAT, HUH?

WELL, YOU'RE GOING  
TO WISH YOU'D TAKEN  
A SWAN DIVE INTO  
THE LAVA--

WHEN THIS ICE  
ARROW TURNS YOU  
BOTH INTO SO  
MUCH UGLY  
SCULPTURE!

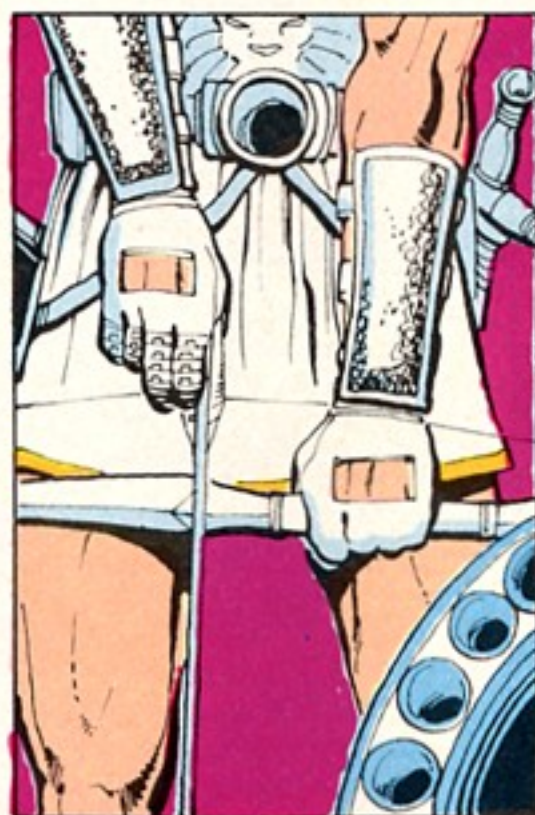


PLEASE--  
P-DON'T HURT  
US, MASTER!

WE JUST  
W-WANTED  
TO PROTECT  
OUR L-LAND!



P-PLEASE--!



OH, THANK YOU,  
MASTER! WE--

NOW DON'T GET  
MAUDLIN ON ME,  
OR I'M LIABLE TO  
CHANGE MY  
MIND.

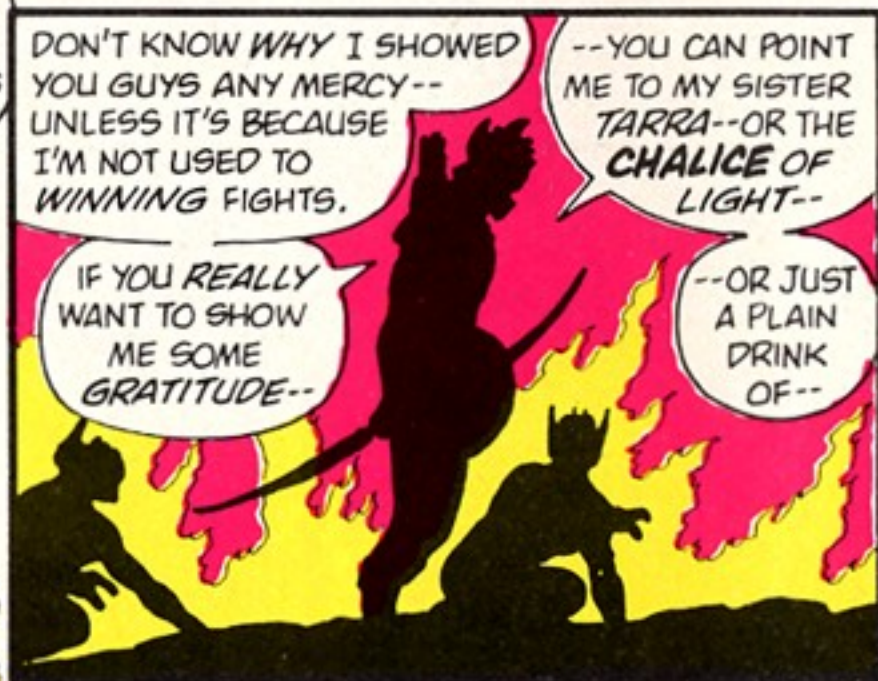
GET AWAY  
FROM THERE!  
YOU WANT TO  
SET MY BOOTS  
ON FIRE?

DON'T KNOW WHY I SHOWED  
YOU GUYS ANY MERCY--  
UNLESS IT'S BECAUSE  
I'M NOT USED TO  
WINNING FIGHTS.

--YOU CAN POINT  
ME TO MY SISTER  
TARRA--OR THE  
CHALICE OF  
LIGHT--

IF YOU REALLY  
WANT TO SHOW  
ME SOME  
GRATITUDE--

--OR JUST  
A PLAIN  
DRINK  
OF--





EH--?

BY THE GODS, THIS FEELS GOOD--AND COOL! IT'S NOT THE CHALICE OF LIGHT, BUT IT'LL DO.

JUST HOPE TARRA'S FOUND SOMEPLACE LIKE IT! IF ANYTHING'S HAPPENED TO HER--!

DO YOU ALWAYS TALK TO YOURSELF THIS WAY, BOY?

YOU!?

WATER!

I KNOW YOU! YOU'RE THAT THIEF CALLED HERMINUS!

YOU TRIED TO GET MY SISTER AND ME KILLED-- BACK IN EARTHWORLD.

GET DOWN OFF THAT FANCY HORSE, AND I'LL--

AFTER ALL, IN CASE YOU DIDN'T KNOW, I'VE BEEN SEEKING THE SWORD OF ULTIMATE SORCERY A LOT LONGER THAN YOU TWO HAVE.

AND, THOUGH I'LL ADMIT I WOULDN'T MIND QUENCHING MY CONSIDERABLE THIRST AT THAT FOUNTAIN--

MAYBE YOU GUYS ARE MY GOOD-LUCK CHARM AFTER ALL, AND--

NOW WHERE'D THEY GO? OH WELL, LIVE AND LET LIVE, I ALWAYS SAY.

I'VE REALLY NO TIME, BOY.



--BUT I DON'T THINK I'LL SETTLE TILL I FIND THE SAME CHALICE YOU'RE LOOKING FOR!

WAIT! HOW'D YOU LATCH ONTO--A UNICORN THAT FLIES?

WE MASTER THIEVES DON'T DIVULGE OUR SECRETS TO RANK AMATEURS, BOY.

FARE YOU WELL!



THAT GUY'D STEAL THE COINS OFF A DEAD MAN'S EYES!

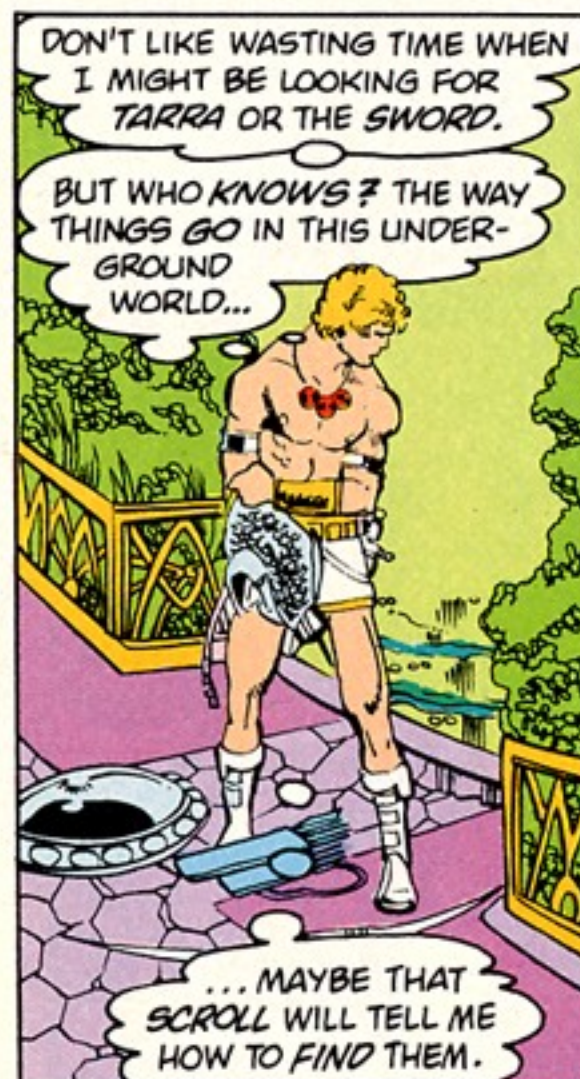
NICE-LOOKING UNICORN, THOUGH. WISH I HAD--



HUH??



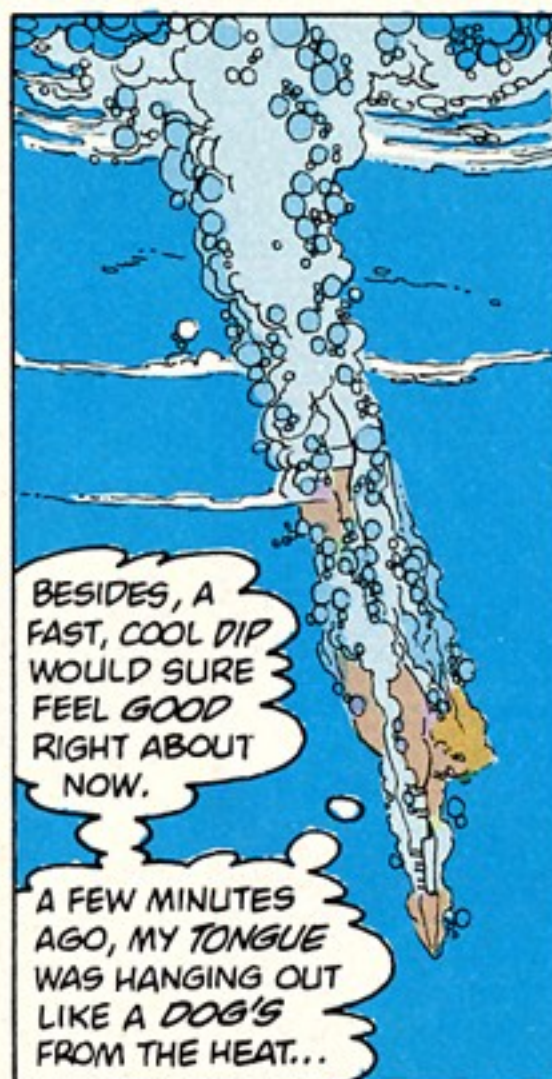
THERE'S SOMETHING AT THE BOTTOM OF THE FOUNTAIN--SOME KIND OF ROLLED-UP PARCHMENT!



DON'T LIKE WASTING TIME WHEN I MIGHT BE LOOKING FOR TARRA OR THE SWORD.

BUT WHO KNOWS? THE WAY THINGS GO IN THIS UNDERGROUND WORLD...

...MAYBE THAT SCROLL WILL TELL ME HOW TO FIND THEM.



BESIDES, A FAST, COOL DIP WOULD SURE FEEL GOOD RIGHT ABOUT NOW.

A FEW MINUTES AGO, MY TONGUE WAS HANGING OUT LIKE A DOG'S FROM THE HEAT...



AND NOW...



OH NO!

SOME KIND OF  
**GIGANTIC REPTILE**  
--IT MUST'VE BEEN LYING  
IN WAIT BENEATH THE  
FOUNTAIN FLOOR!

IT'S GOT MY  
LEG--PULLING  
ME DOWN--!

**GLOMP!**





IN THE MEAN-  
TIME, TORR'S  
GOLD-HAIRED  
TWIN HAS  
RETRIEVED A  
SECOND OUT-  
FITTING FROM  
THE CHAMBER  
OF SPLENDOR,  
AND...

SPEAK OF  
THE DEVIL!

THERE'S A FULL  
SUIT OF ARMOR--  
HANGING ON THAT  
BLAZING TREE--

--AND IT LOOKS AS  
IF IT WOULD FIT ME  
PERFECTLY!

NO! WHAT IN  
THE NAME OF  
THIS TERRIBLE  
HEAT AM I  
THINKING OF?

NOW I GET IT! THIS  
PLACE JUST THROWS ONE  
TEMPTATION AFTER  
ANOTHER AT YOU-- LIKE  
THE "SLEEPING PRINCE"  
BEFORE, AND NOW THIS--

--TAKING IMAGES  
FROM MY MIND, AND  
USING THEM TO  
DISARM ME!

THINGS  
SHOULD GO  
A BIT MORE  
SMOOTHLY  
FROM HERE  
ON.

MAYBE  
I COULD  
JUST--

THIS TIME,  
I CHOOSE MY  
WEAPONS FOR  
STURDINESS,  
NOT SHEEN.

TOO BAD  
THERE WASN'T  
A SECOND SUIT  
OF ARMOR LYING  
AROUND, BUT--  
BY THE  
GODS!

I'D TAKE OFF THIS  
BIT OF ARMOR, AND  
THEN BE TOTALLY  
UNPROTECTED  
IF--

OWWWWWW

THAT BLAST OF  
HEAT! WH-WHERE'D  
IT COME FROM??





THIS PLACE  
NEVER GIVES UP,  
DOES IT?

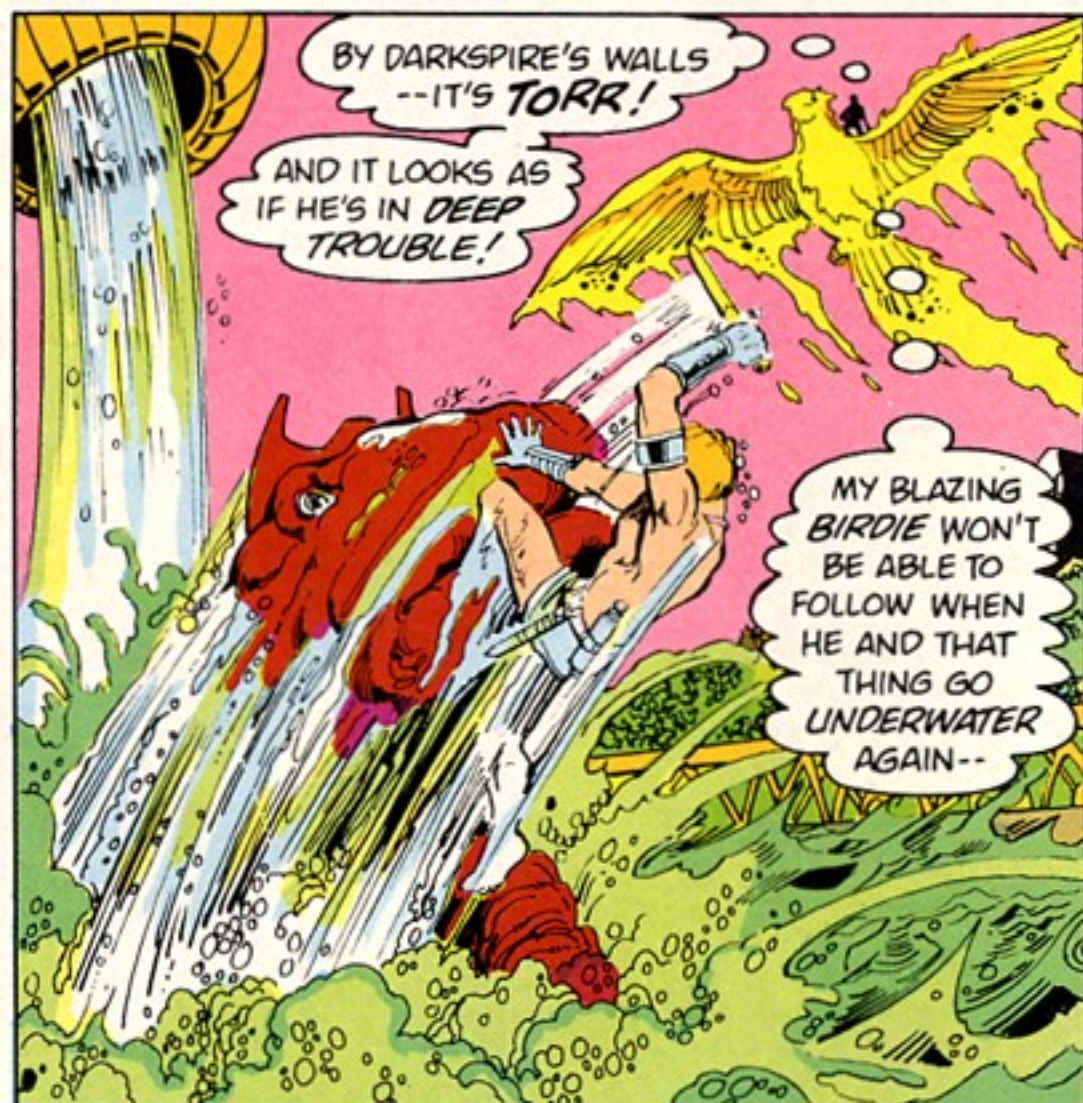
UNICORNS--  
HYPNOTIC  
OCTOPOIDS--  
AND NOW THIS  
FIRE-HAWK!

WELL, AT LEAST  
THIS ARMOR'S  
PROTECTING ME  
BETTER THAN THE  
OTHER DID--

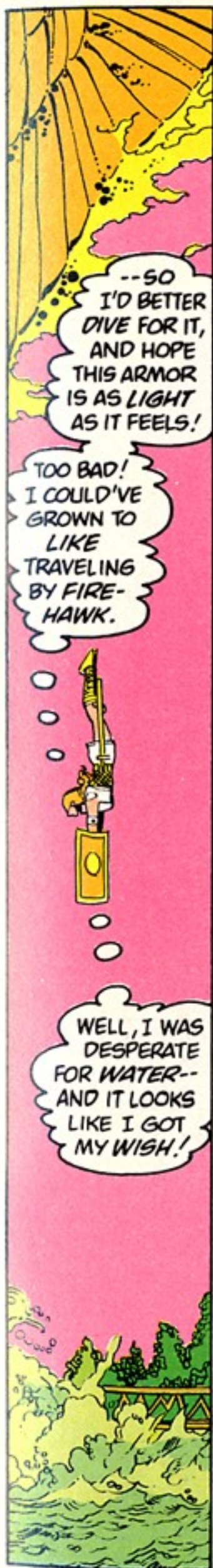
--BUT THAT LAST  
PASS BY THE HAWK--  
LEFT ME SO FAINT--  
FROM IT'S SHEER,  
UNRELENTING HEAT!

ANOTHER  
ONE LIKE IT--  
AND I'M  
DONE FOR--





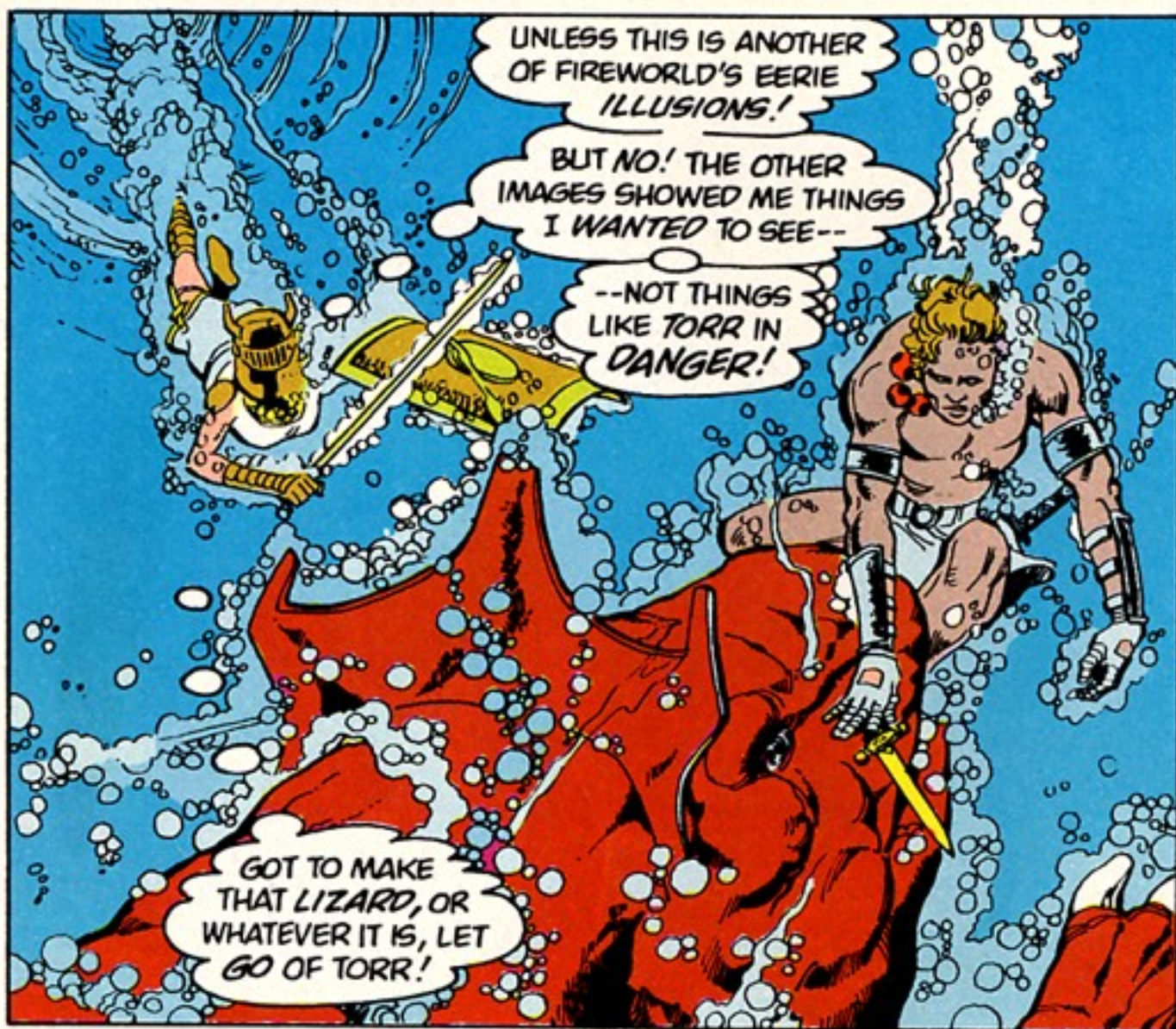




--SO  
I'D BETTER  
DIVE FOR IT,  
AND HOPE  
THIS ARMOR  
IS AS LIGHT  
AS IT FEELS!

TOO BAD!  
I COULD'VE  
GROWN TO  
LIKE  
TRAVELING  
BY FIRE-  
HAWK.

WELL, I WAS  
DESPERATE  
FOR WATER--  
AND IT LOOKS  
LIKE I GOT  
MY WISH!



UNLESS THIS IS ANOTHER  
OF FIREWORLD'S EERIE  
ILLUSIONS!

BUT NO! THE OTHER  
IMAGES SHOWED ME THINGS  
I WANTED TO SEE--

--NOT THINGS  
LIKE TORR IN  
DANGER!

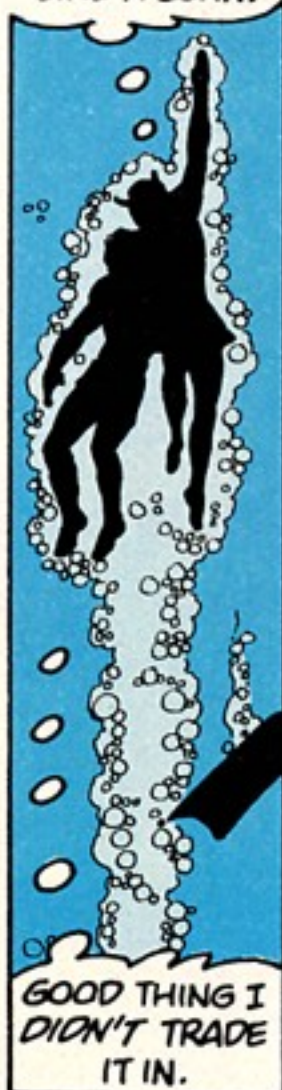
GOT TO MAKE  
THAT LIZARD, OR  
WHATEVER IT IS, LET  
GO OF TORR!



NOTHING  
LIKE THE  
DIRECT  
APPROACH!

**GRONK**

THIS ARMOR'S  
LIGHT, ALL  
RIGHT! I'M  
POPPING UP  
LIKE A CORK.



GOOD THING I  
DIDN'T TRADE  
IT IN.



TORR-- ARE YOU--?

I WON'T FEEL--LIKE  
GOING SWIMMING  
--FOR A WHILE--  
BUT OTHERWISE--

SAME OLD  
BROTHER-OF-  
MINE, ALL  
RIGHT--THANK  
THE GODS!



**GRAAARR**

WELL? WHAT'S WRONG, TORR?  
AREN'T YOU GLAD TO SEE ME?

WHAT ARE  
YOU GAPING  
AT?

YOU,  
SISTER--  
YES--

--BUT  
NOT  
THAT!

WOULDN'T  
YOU JUST KNOW  
IT--IN A FIRE-HAPPY  
PLACE LIKE THIS--

--THAT THING  
WOULD BE A FIRE-  
BREATHER!?

TORR!  
WILL YOUR  
SHIELD--?

I DON'T KNOW!

BUT OUR ONLY  
HOPE--IS TO FIGHT  
FIRE--WITH FIRE--

--AND  
PRAY!

**FR00SH!**



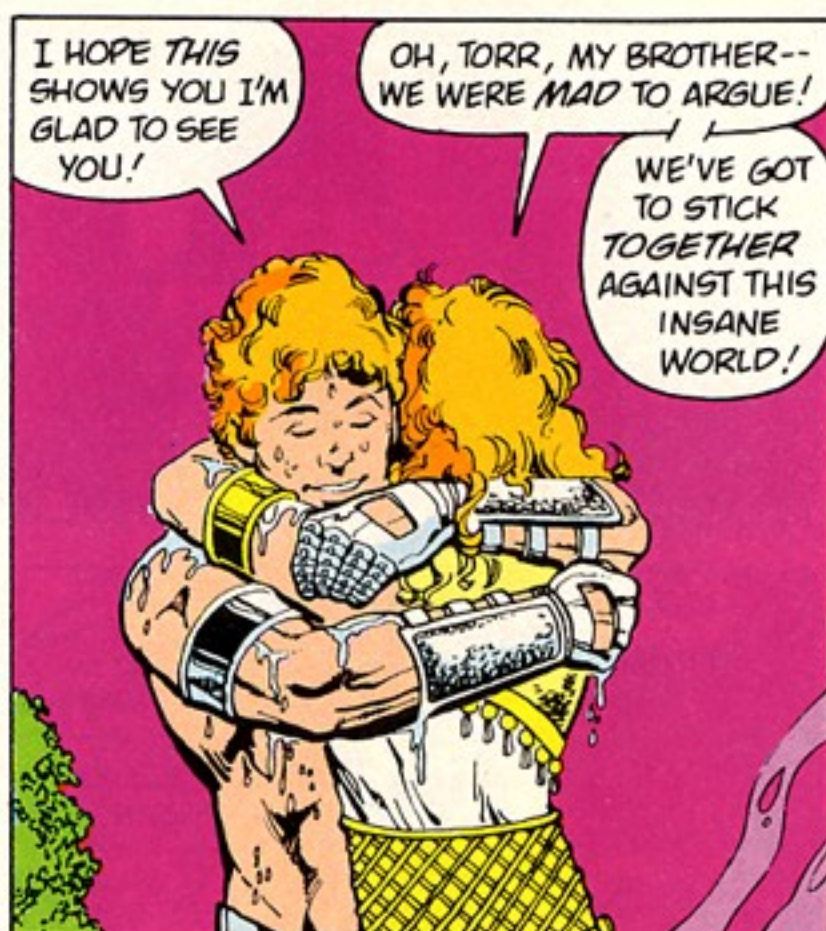


IT--IT WORKED!

I DON'T KNOW  
IF THAT THING'S  
DEAD OR NOT--  
AND I DON'T  
MUCH CARE--

--AS LONG AS  
IT STAYS DOWN  
THERE, AND WE'RE  
UP HERE.

NOW, ABOUT  
THAT QUESTION  
YOU ASKED BE-  
FORE, TARRA...



I HOPE THIS  
SHOWS YOU I'M  
GLAD TO SEE  
YOU!

OH, TORR, MY BROTHER--  
WE WERE MAD TO ARGUE!

WE'VE GOT  
TO STICK  
TOGETHER  
AGAINST THIS  
INSANE  
WORLD!



...SO THE WAY I FIGURE IT, I  
GAINED SOME SORT OF UNDER-  
STANDING OF FIREWORLD, AND  
THAT'S WHAT ENABLED ME TO  
MASTER THE FIRE-HAWK.

I GOT A LITTLE BIT  
WISER MYSELF--WHEN  
I LEARNED I'M NOT THE  
BIG STRONG LONER I  
PRETENDED TO BE.

WE STILL DIDN'T FIND THE CHALICE,  
THOUGH, LET ALONE THE SWORD...

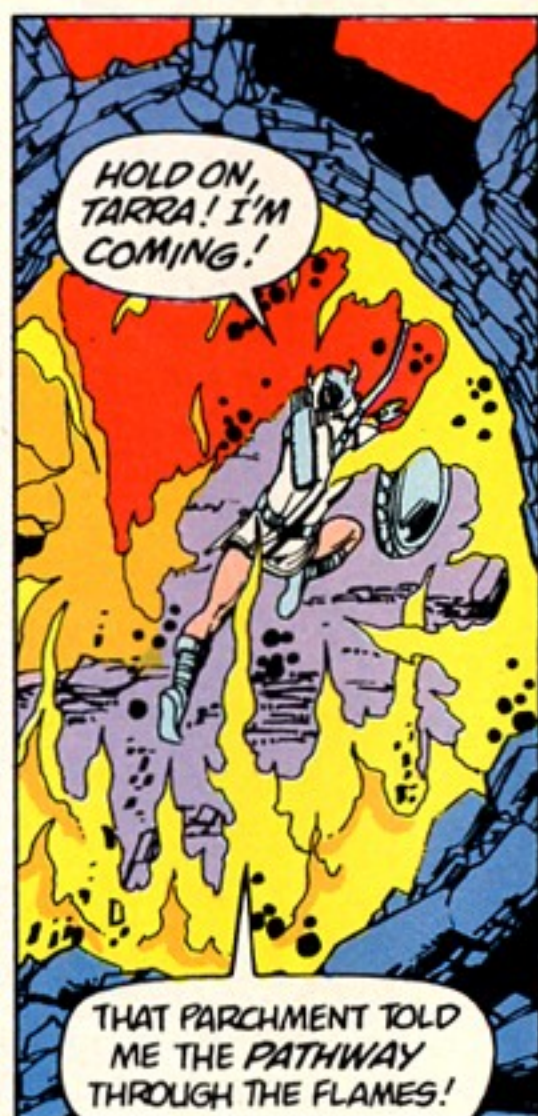


AND IF THIS  
GATEWAY IS ANY  
EVIDENCE--I'M  
NOT SURE WE'RE  
GOING TO!

IT'S LIKE A  
ROARING FURNACE--  
THE GREATEST INFERNO  
WE'VE ENCOUNTERED  
YET!

BUT NOW THAT  
OUR PATHS HAVE  
JOINED--OUR GOAL  
MUST BE JUST  
BEYOND IT! IT  
**MUST!**







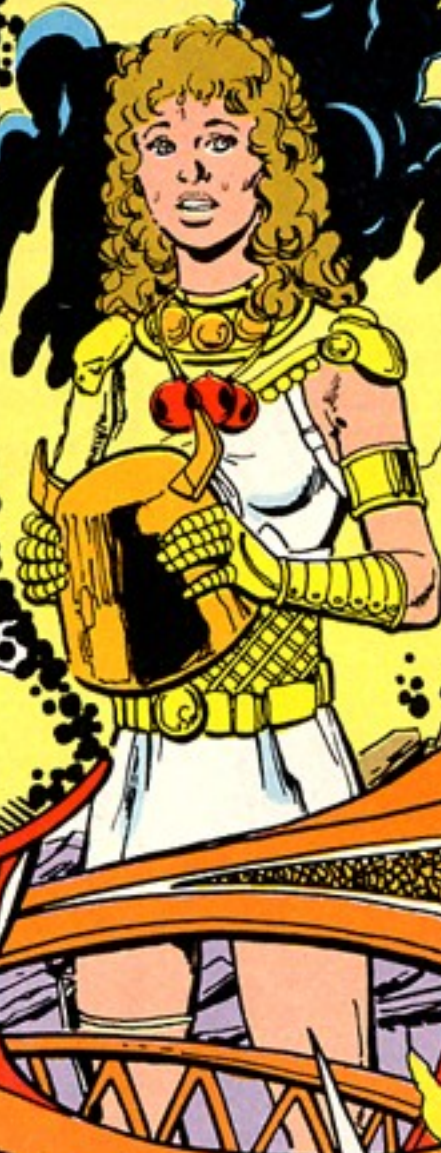
SOMEHOW, THE  
WATER I SWALLOWED  
BACK AT THAT WEIRD  
FOUNTAIN GAVE ME  
THE WISDOM TO--

HUH??

DON'T TELL  
ME--LET ME  
GUESS--!

THE  
CHALICE OF  
LIGHT!

JUST THINK,  
TORR--ONCE WE  
DRINK FROM IT, WE  
WON'T FEEL THE  
HEAT ANY MORE--  
WE WON'T FEEL  
ANY THIRST!



WE'LL HAVE  
CONQUERED  
FIREWORLD,  
JUST AS WE DID  
EARTHWORLD--

--AND BECOME  
THE WARRIORS  
OUR MENTORS  
TOLD US WE  
COULD BE!





I'LL DRINK TO THAT-- A NICE LONG GULP OF WATER!

YES, AND ALL WITHOUT SLAYING ANYBODY TO GET TO IT, TOO!



AS A MATTER OF FACT--SO WILL I!

HUH? WHO--?



THE CHALICE-- IT SHATTERED INTO A MILLION PIECES!



THEN I'M BETTING--IT WASN'T THE REAL CHALICE OF LIGHT AT ALL!

AYE, LAD AND LASS-- HERMINUS, AND DRINKING A JOLLY TOAST TO THE BOTH OF YOU!

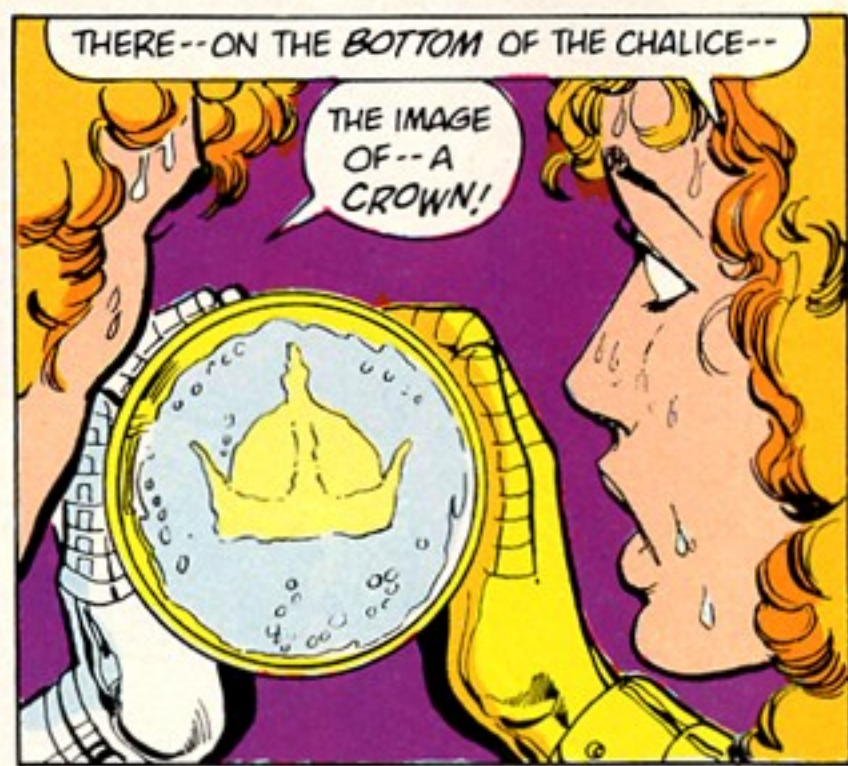
FACT IS, I WAS QUITE THIRSTY, AND SINCE THIS TRUE CHALICE NEVER GETS EMPTY--



GIVE US THAT CHALICE, THIEF!

BUT OF COURSE! WHY NOT? I'VE DRUNK MY FILL... AND LEARNED ALL THAT'S TO BE LEARNED FROM IT.

THIS IS WHAT HE MEANS, TORR. LOOK!



THERE--ON THE BOTTOM OF THE CHALICE--

THE IMAGE OF--A CROWN!

--I'M TOO WATER-LOGGED EVEN TO RUN FROM YOU!





THAT IT IS, MY HEARTIES! A CROWN THAT WAITS FOR ME-- IN THE *THIRD* WORLD WHERE HIDES THE SWORD OF ULTIMATE SORCERY!

HE'S GETTING AWAY-- ON THAT WEIRD UNICORN!

LET HIM.



AFTER ALL, WE'VE GOT THE *CHALICE*, RIGHT?

AND IF WHAT HAPPENED IN *EARTHWORLD* WAS ANY CLUE, IT SHOULD BE THE KEY TO OUR NEXT DESTINATION.

I GUESS SO... BUT I DON'T TRUST THAT HERMINUS!



WHY SHOULD YOU? HE'S A THIEF, ISN'T HE-- JUST LIKE US!

NOT LIKE US! WE'RE *WAR-RIORS* NOW, REMEMBER?

AND WE WANT THE SWORD TO DEFEAT TYRANNUS, NOT JUST BECAUSE IT'S VALUABLE! WE--



TARRA! SOMETHING'S HAPPENING-- TO THE *CHALICE*!

IT'S GETTING BIGGER-- RIGHT BEFORE OUR EYES!



HUH? WHERE'D ALL THIS WATER--



--COME--



--FROM?





DID YOU MISS **EARTHWORLD**? HUSTLE DOWN TODAY TO YOUR FAVORITE ATARI CARTRIDGE DEALER AND GET **SWORDQUEST #1: EARTHWORLD**.









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