# THE ETERNALS

BY JACK KIRBY



MARVEL THE COMPLETE COLLECTION

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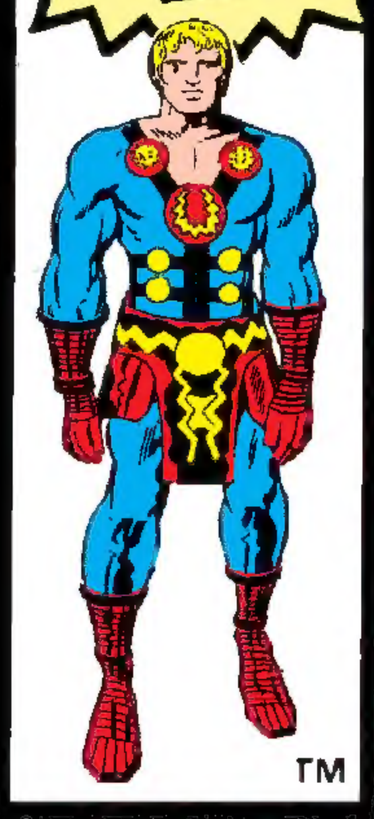
# WHEN GODS WALK THE EARTH!

# THE ETERNALS™



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WE'VE FOUND IT-- THE TOMB OF THE SPACE GODS!

AND THEY'RE NOT DEAD! LOOK TO THE STARS!

THE GODS ARE COMING BACK!

**FIRST ISSUE!**

THE START OF JACK KIRBY'S LONG-AWAITED COSMIC SERIES!

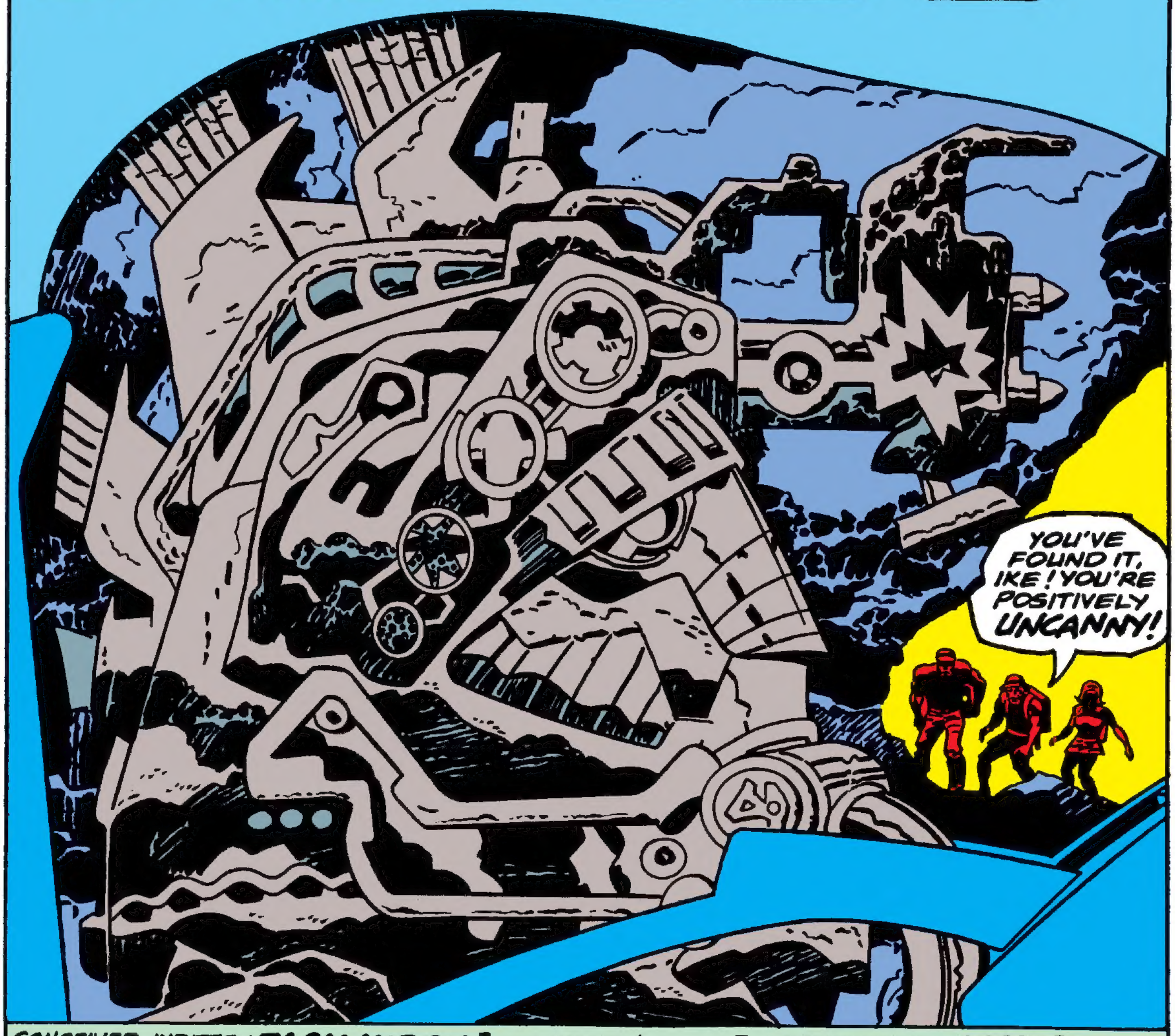
Stan Lee PRESENTS:

# THE ETERNALS!™

JV 188

IS MAN ALONE IN THE UNIVERSE? EVERY MYTH AND LEGEND TO EMERGE FROM THE DISTANT PAST POINTS TO A STRANGE VISITATION FROM THE STARS!! BEINGS OF GREAT POWER HAVE BEEN ON THIS EARTH--AND THEN DEPARTED! WHO WERE THEY? WHAT DID THEY DO HERE? WHERE HAVE THEY GONE? THESE AWESOME QUESTIONS CREATE THE BACKGROUND FOR THIS EXCITING NEW SAGA OF A DAY WHICH LIES AHEAD... THE DAY OF ANSWERS...

## THE DAY OF THE GODS




CONCEIVED, WRITTEN, AND DRAWN by JACK KIRBY | INKED by JOHN VERPOORTEN | LETTERED BY GASPAR
COLORED BY GLYNIS WEIN
CONSULTING EDITOR: MARV WOLFMAN

BENEATH THE HIGH PLAINS OF THE ANDES, THIS **SECRET** PLACE, LIKE ITS BUILDERS, HAS BEEN LOST TO HISTORY... BUT NOW IT LIES **EXPOSED** ONCE MORE -- DWARFING ITS DISCOVERERS WITH **CYCLOPEAN** GRANDEUR...

MY **EVERY** INSTINCT LED ME TO THE **RIGHT** PASSAGES, DOCTOR DAMIAN!

I'LL RECORD IT ON FILM FOR YOU, RIGHT NOW!

THE LEGENDARY **CHAMBER OF THE GODS!!** I-ITS DIMENSIONS ARE **OVERWHELMING!**

IT'S ALL HERE AS YOU PREDICTED, FATHER -- THE **GALAXY PLAQUE** OF THE INCAS -- THEIR **SPACE GOD** AND HIS CRAFT -- CARVED IN STONE...

EACH GREAT ARTIFACT IN THE GIANT CHAMBER BRINGS HOME THE ASTOUNDING REVELATION OF A VISIT FROM THE STARS... THE INTRUDERS CONTINUE ON IN BREATHLESS WONDER...

OUTER SPACE TECHNOLOGY TRANSLATED IN TERMS OF MYTHOLOGY-- INCREDIBLE!

THIS IS UNMISTAKEABLY A THREE PASSENGER DESCENT VEHICLE! IT SEEMS THE GOD'S HAD A VARIETY OF EQUIPMENT...

DOCTOR DAMIAN WAKES FROM THE SPELL OF THE AWE-INSPIRING TABLEAU AND SETS TO WORK...

QUICKLY, MARGO!! I *MUST* HAVE THE TAPE RECORDER... WHAT I HAVE TO SAY WILL *ELECTRIFY* THE SCIENTIFIC COMMUNITY!

THANKS TO IKE HARRIS, WE MAY HAVE MADE THE *GREATEST* ARCHEOLOGICAL FIND IN HISTORY!

--PERHAPS THE *TRUE* STORY OF *ALL* WHICH HAS GONE BEFORE!

THAT TAKES IN A LOT OF TERRITORY, IKE!

YOUR STATEMENT COVERS *ALL OF HUMAN HISTORY!* ARE YOU *SERIOUS* ABOUT THIS CLAIM YOU JUST MADE?

I REFER NOT ONLY TO HUMAN HISTORY, BUT ALSO TO *DIVERGENT* HUMAN HISTORY! THERE WERE OTHERS...

DO YOU REALIZE WHAT YOU'RE SAYING, YOUNG MAN?!! YOU'RE *INTIMATING* THAT THE HUMAN SPECIES IS *SHARING* THIS WORLD WITH -- *RELATED* FORMS OF LIFE!

THAT'S *EXACTLY* WHAT I'M SAYING, DOCTOR! HOMO SAPIENS HAS--*RELATIVES!*

THAT'S A *WILD* THEORY, IKE! YOU *CAN'T* BELIEVE IN SUCH A FANTASY!

IKE HARRIS, YOU'VE BEEN A *DISTURBING* ENIGMA TO US EVER SINCE YOU JOINED OUR EFFORT TO SEEK OUT THIS CHAMBER--

--BUT YOU *NEVER* STRUCK US AS BEING THE TYPE OF YOUNG MAN WHO IS GIVEN TO THIS KIND OF *DRIVEL!*

YOU'RE WRONG ON BOTH COUNTS, DOCTOR! THIS IS NOT DRIVEL. AND, *I AM NOT A YOUNG MAN BY YOUR STANDARDS!*

THAT DOES IT! I WON'T BE SHOCKED INTO DISCUSSING ANOTHER OF HIS FANTASTIC SECRETS!!

OUR COLLEAGUE IS BENT ON PULLING MY LEG!

BRAVO, DAD! YOU KNOW A COLLEGE PRANK WHEN YOU HEAR ONE...

BLAST!! IT SHOULD BE IN THIS CORNER OF THE CHAMBER! I CAN SENSE IT!

FOR HEAVEN'S SAKE, HARRIS! WHAT ARE YOU HUNTING FOR NOW?

THE MOST IMPORTANT OBJECT IN THIS CHAMBER, SIR-- IT CAN TURN MYTH INTO STARK REALITY!!

IT IS SAID THAT WHEN THIS OBJECT CALLS TO THE GODS--THEY WILL RETURN ONCE MORE TO EARTH!

EVEN AS IKE HARRIS SPEAKS, A STRANGE INCIDENT IS TAKING PLACE OVER THE PACIFIC WATERS THAT BRUSH THE SOUTH AMERICAN SHORES...

BLUE JAY TO BASE -- I'M LOST! MY COMPASS HAS GONE WILD! I DON'T KNOW WHERE I AM! COME IN, BASE!

AS THE PLANE CIRCLES, MADLY SEEKING A DIRECTION, BEHIND IT A SINISTER, CRACKLING FORCE BOILS UP FROM THE DEPTHS...REACHING SKYWARD...

BASE TO BLUE JAY -- USE THE SUN AS A GUIDE...INCREASE YOUR ALTITUDE

BUT SEEKING THE SUN BECOMES IMPOSSIBLE FOR THE PILOT! HE IS SUDDENLY CONFRONTED BY A WALL OF SEETHING ENERGY...

MAYDAY! MAYDAY! THE SKY'S FULL OF FIREWORKS! I-IT'S THE ONLY WAY I CAN DESCRIBE IT!!

THEN, WHITE-HOT BOLTS ENVELOP THE PLANE...THE PILOT **SCREAMS** AS HIS UNSEEN COMPANIONS REACH HIM ONLY BY VOICE...

BLUE JAY! WHAT'S HAPPENING!? WHAT'S HAPPENING?!

DON'T-- KNOW!! GOT TO EJECT!

AN EXPLOSIVE BURST SENDS THE PILOT AND HIS SEAT HURTLING FROM THE PLANE. BUT THERE'S NO ESCAPING THE BRIGHT AND **TERRIBLE** FORCE WHICH CLINGS TO ITS VICTIM...

LIKE MANY OTHERS WHO HAVE **VANISHED** IN AREAS OF **MYSTERY** ACROSS THE EARTH, THE PILOT IS SWALLOWED IN A FLARE-UP WHICH CONSUMES HIS PLANE AS WELL!

THOSE WHO WILL COME TO SEARCH IN VAIN AND PONDER **FRUITLESSLY** ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED HERE, WILL NEVER SEE THE **BIZARRE SOURCE** OF THE TRAGEDY--

--NOR WILL THEY FIND ITS MAKERS AND THEIR HIDDEN, UNDERSEA SANCTUARIES...

LOWER THE DISRUPTER! IT IS **DONE**!

STAND BY TO **CLOSE** THE SILO COVER! BE **QUICK** ABOUT IT!

...FOR, IN AN ENCLAVE **BENEATH** THE OCEAN FLOOR...

THE AREA IS **CLEAR** OF INTRUDERS, SIRE. YOUR JOURNEY WILL PROCEED **WITHOUT** DETECTION FROM ABOVE!

DON'T LEAVE YET, DOG!

HERE WE FIND A GATHERING OF STRANGE BEINGS -- A ROYAL COURT OF THE GROTESQUE AND THE MIS-SHAPEN -- THE INHABITANTS OF A DOMAIN UNKNOWN TO MAN...

YOU'VE FORGOTTEN IN WHOSE PRESENCE YOU ARE, DOG!

I CRAVE YOUR PARDON, HIGH ONES!

HE RESEMBLES A HUMAN... HE'S NOT LIKE US DEVIANTS AT ALL!

WE'RE PRODUCING MORE OF THESE UNSTABLE CREATURES EVERY DAY! NO TRUE DEVIANT WOULD FAIL TO GROVEL BEFORE THE RULING FAMILY!

DISMISS HIM, KRO! HE REMINDS US OF THE CURSE OF OUR SPECIES THAT WE CANNOT BREED IN CONSISTENT FORM!

YET HE, LIKE OURSELVES, IS A SEED OF THE GODS!

BEGONE, GNAT!

YES, SIRE!

THE GODS! THEIR RETURN IS ALMOST AT HAND, KRO! YOU KNOW WHAT THAT MEANS! THEY MAY SCOURGE US AS THEY DID IN ANCIENT TIMES!

NEVER FEAR, BROTHER TODE! I SHALL FIND THEIR COSMIC BEACON AND DESTROY IT!

THEN HASTEN ON YOUR JOURNEY, KRO! GO TO THE INCA CHAMBER AND DO YOUR DUTY... THAT BEACON MUST NEVER BE ACTIVATED!

THE TRIP IS SHORT. MY TASK WILL BE ACCOMPLISHED WITHIN THE HOUR!

COMPLACENT FOOL! YOU SPEAK LIKE THE HARE WHO SNEERS AT THE TORTOISE! THE ETERNALS MAY YET FIND THE BEACON BEFORE WE DO!

NONSENSE! THEY'VE FAILED AS WE HAVE! BUT THIS TIME, IT IS WE WHO SHALL SUCCEED!

THUS, I TAKE MY LEAVE!

SOON AFTER, AN UNDERSEA CRAFT SPEEDS FROM THE SUNKEN RUINS OF WHAT WAS ONCE PART OF A FABLED CITY... THE SURVIVORS OF THAT DISASTROUS BRUSH WITH THE GODS STILL QUAKE WITH THE MEMORY OF DOOMED LEMURIA...

WE SHALL REACH THE INCA PASSAGE IN THE TIME YOU DESIRE, GREAT KRO!

TRAVEL AT MAXIMUM POWER! DEATH TO THE DEVIANT WHO LAGS AT HIS POST!

THE GOD CHAMBER, AT THIS MOMENT, HAS REVEALED YET ANOTHER SURPRISE. MARGO DAMIAN AND HER FATHER TURN FROM THEIR TAPE RECORDING TO STARE IN WIDE-EYED WONDER AS A GREAT WALL PARTS TO DISPLAY A MIRROR-IMAGE OF DEEP SPACE...

MARGO! LOOK! IKE HARRIS' AMAZING INSTINCTS HAVE UNCOVERED SOME SORT OF TELESCOPIC GADGETRY!

THE INCAS DON'T CONCERN ME NOW, DAD! I-IT'S IKE HARRIS WHO FRIGHTENS ME!

BUT THE INCAS WEREN'T ADVANCED ENOUGH TO HAVE BUILT ANYTHING THAT COMPLEX!

H-HE'S NEITHER A KOOK NOR A PRANKSTER! I-I THINK HE KNOWS THINGS WE CAN'T EVEN GUESS AT! IKE IS NOT ANY ORDINARY MAN!

BEHOLD! THE UNIVERSE! THE VAST HOME OF THE GODS!!

THERE THEY ROAM... THERE THEY *LIVE!* IN THIS GREAT REFLECTOR WHICH THE GODS LEFT WHEN THEY LAST DEPARTED, THE DEVOTED INCA PEOPLE KEPT WATCH FOR THEIR NEXT ARRIVAL... BUT THE GODS NEVER RETURNED...AND THE INCAS *VANISHED* FROM HISTORY!

KEEP GOING, IKE! TELL US *MORE!* BUT FIRST--TELL US WHO YOU *REALLY* ARE!

Y-YOU'RE *NOT* ONE OF *US*-- A-ARE YOU?

IKE HARRIS SEEMS TO *PROJECT* THE SILENT POWER OF THE GOD CHAMBER ITSELF! BOTH MARGO AND HER FATHER REALIZE THAT HE'S *SOMEHOW*, A *PART* OF THE AWESOME TRUTHS UNFOLDING HERE...

SPARE US, *NOTHING!* WE'VE GOT TO *KNOW!*

BEGIN WITH YOUR NAME... IT'S *NOT* IKE HARRIS-- IS IT?

NOT EXACTLY!

HOWEVER, IF YOU RUN BOTH WORDS *TOGETHER*, YOU GET *IKARIS!!* I AM *NOT* ONE OF YOUR SPECIES. YET, WE ARE RELATED IN *MANY* WAYS...

"IT ALL BEGAN WITH THE COMING OF THE GODS TO EARTH WHEN IT WAS POPULATED ONLY BY THE *BEASTS* OF THE FIELD! STILL, IT WAS THE PRESENCE OF *LIFE* WHICH DREW THESE COSMIC BEINGS TO THIS PLANET. THEIR HUGE SPACE-VESSEL SURVEYED THE LAND-- AND *DESCENDED*...

"IT WAS THEN THAT THE GODS PROCEEDED WITH THEIR MISSION...THEY CHOSE TO CHANGE THE DESTINY OF A LIFE-FORM NEW TO THE EVOLUTIONARY CHAIN--THE APE! A SPECIMEN WAS TRAPPED AND TAKEN ALIVE.

"ONLY THE INSTRUMENTS OF THE GODS COULD DO WHAT WAS DONE IN THAT MOMENTOUS TIME! TO THE APE WAS GIVEN THE COSMIC CHEMISTRY THAT WOULD FATHER THE RACES TO COME!

"IN THIS MANNER, THE DAWN APE BECAME THE COMMON ANCESTOR OF THREE POWERFUL NEW SPECIES...

"THE DEVIANT! AN EVER-CHANGING AND DESTRUCTIVE FAILURE.

"THE HUMAN! THIS SPECIES BRED WITH TRUE BALANCE OF STRUCTURE AND DISPOSITION. ALTHOUGH HE WAS A DESTROYER, THE HUMAN WAS CAPABLE OF BUILDING FOR PEACE.

"THE ETERNAL! HE WAS MORE A CHILD OF THE GODS THAN OF EARTH... HE REACHED FOR THE UNIVERSE!

STRUCTURALLY UNSTABLE, EACH NEW GENERATION OF DEVIANT APPEARED IN NEW AND MONSTROUS WAYS. HIS LOT WAS CONSTANT WAR.

HIS KIND WAS DESTINED TO INHERIT THE EARTH. HE BELONGED TO IT.

THE ETERNALS BRED FEW IN NUMBER AND WERE IMMUNE TO TIME AND DEATH! LIKE THE GODS, THEY LIVED APART FROM ALL OTHER LIVING BEINGS.

"LIKE THE **VOLATILE**, ENERGETIC CREATURES THEY WERE, THE DEVIANTS TOOK TO THE EARTH'S **INNER DEPTHS**, WHERE THEY TOILED CEASELESSLY AT CREATING NEW WEAPONS! THE MYTHS OF MAN ARE FILLED WITH THE **TERRORS** INSPIRED BY CLASHES WITH DEVIANTS!

"THE ETERNALS TOOK TO THE HIGHEST MOUNTAIN TOPS. THEY PROBED THE UNIVERSE WITH THEIR **MINDS** AND DEVELOPED POWERS WHICH **SURPASSED** THOSE OF ALL OTHER EARTH-LIFE. THEY WERE REGARDED WITH **AWE** AND **FEAR**.

"AS FOR THE HUMAN, HE **COLLIDED** WITH NATURE, THE BEAST, AND HIS FELLOW MAN. HE **SUBDUED** THE EARTH AND MADE IT HIS HOME. ALTHOUGH HE **STILL** YEARNS FOR PEACE, HE LIVES WITH DANGERS THAT WOULD DESTROY **ALL** HE HAS CREATED!"

DOCTOR DAMIAN AND HIS DAUGHTER ARE TRANSFIXED BY THE IMPORT OF IKARIS' WORDS...

THAT IS WHAT THE SPACE-GODS WROUGHT DURING THEIR VISIT TO EARTH.

SO, THEY CAME BACK ONCE MORE--DURING THE REIGN OF THE INCAS--

--PERHAPS TO CHECK OUT THE RESULTS OF THEIR EXPERIMENTS!

THAT WAS ONE OF MANY VISITS! THE GODS HAVE... WAIT! THERE--ON THE REFLECTOR SCREEN!

THE SHIP OF THE GODS --LEAPING LIGHT YEARS IN SECONDS! IT'S ON ITS WAY TO EARTH! THE BEACON SHALL GUIDE THEM! I KNOW I CAN FIND IT NOW!

THE TENSION MOUNTS AS THE TIME APPROACHES! IN A WATER CHANNEL BENEATH THE ANDES, THE DEVIANT WAR CRAFT PLUNGES ONWARD...

FASTER! FASTER! WE SHOULD HAVE SIGHTED THE INCA PASSAGE BY NOW!

WE SHALL REACH IT IN A MOMENT, SIRE!

SOMEHOW, IN THE HEART OF THE ARROGANT DEVIANT, KRO, A SWELLING KNOT OF DOUBT IS DANGEROUSLY CLOSE TO BURSTING INTO FEAR... IS IT POSSIBLE THAT HE MAY BE TOO LATE?

THEY CAN'T DO IT! THE ETERNALS -- FOR ALL THEIR GREAT MIND-POWERS-- HAVE FAILED TO FIND THE BEACON!

BUT, SUPPOSE THEY TRAINED ONE OF THEIR KIND-- SHARPENED HIS SENSES TENFOLD FOR THE TASK! W-WHY ME COULD--!

SUDDENLY, A GIANT STONE HEAD LOOMS INTO VIEW.

WE'VE REACHED THE INCA PASSAGE, SIRE...THE MAMMOTH WELL LIES AHEAD!

INSIDE THE HUGE DRAGON'S HEAD, THE WATER CHANNEL MERGES WITH A GIANT WELL... THERE, THE DEVIANT CRAFT BEGINS TO RISE...

TAKE HER TO THE SURFACE! TIME GROWS SHORT!

WE DID THE BEST WE COULD, GREAT KRO...

THE UNDERSEA VESSEL NO SOONER BOBS TO THE SURFACE, THAN A FORWARD HATCH OPENS AND KRO EMERGES WITH AN ARMED ESCORT.

WE'RE IN THE GOD CHAMBER! ADVANCE AND SEARCH FOR ANY SIGN OF AN ETERNAL!

REMEMBER, THEY WOULD WELCOME THE GODS, SHOULD THEY RETURN, SUCH ALLIES COULD SPELL OUR DOOM!!

BEEP BEEP BEEP BEEP

SIRE! LISTEN! WE'VE BEEN UNDONE! THAT IS SURELY THE SOUND OF THE COSMIC BEACON!

BY THE FLAMING PITS! AN ETERNAL HAS BEEN AT WORK HERE!

BUT THERE IS STILL SOME TIME LEFT! WE CAN WASTE HIS EFFORTS! WE CAN DESTROY THE COSMIC BEACON!

I SEE THE FOE! IT'S IKARIS OF THE POLAR MOUNTAINS!

THE GODS HAD SECURED THEIR SECRETS WELL...THEY'D DONE IT WITH MIND BLOCKS! BUT AN ETERNAL HAS BROKEN THROUGH AT LAST...THE BEACON IS ACTIVATED!

BEEP BEEP

SO THAT'S THE COSMIC BEACON! YOU MADE ITS DIS-COVERY LOOK SO EASY...

THINK OF A TRAINING PROGRAM WHICH LASTS A THOUSAND YEARS, DOCTOR! THAT'S WHAT IT TOOK!

LOOK OUT! WE'VE GOT VISITORS! AND THEY DON'T LOOK LIKE GODS!

KILL THE HUMANS! POUND IKARIS WITH HIGH VOLTAGE! WE CAN'T HARM HIM, BUT WE CAN KEEP HIM BUSY!!

THEN, DESTROY THE BEACON!!

TIZOOOOO

ZOOOO

IKARIS REACTS WITH LIGHTNING SPEED! HIS MIND SEIZES THE VERY ATOMS OF THE AIR AND MOLDS THEM INTO AN IMPENE-TRABLE SHIELD...

KOOM

YOU DEVIANTS ARE LATE-- MUCH TOO LATE TO STOP THE ARRIVAL OF THE GODS!

THEY'RE DEVIANTS! --THE DESTRUCTIVE SPECIES HE TALKED ABOUT!

KRAM!

THE ETERNAL REMOVES HIS CAP AND GLASSES TO REVEAL THE FEATURES WHICH MARK HIS KIND... IT IS THE EYES THAT RELEASE THE POWERS STORED IN THE DYNAMICS OF THE ETERNAL BRAIN! IT IS THE EYES WHICH THE DEVIANTS FEAR!!

ONE CANNOT MAKE PEACE WITH YOUR SPECIES! IF YOU FIND REASON IN WAR--THEN I SAY-- TO BATTLE!

TWIN BEAMS OF FORCE LEAP FROM THE EYES OF IKARIS! THE RESULTS ARE DEVASTATING!

KRAAAAAK

AAAAA!

GET HIS EYES! USE THE "SHROUD" GUN!

AT ONCE, SIRE!

THE SHROUD GUN FIRES A CANNISTER OF WHIRLING FIBER THAT UNFOLDS AS IT WHISTLES OMINOUSLY AT TOP SPEED!!

NOT EVEN AN ETERNAL CAN GET OUT OF *THIS* IN TIME!

THE "SHROUD" STRIKES IKARIS AND SMOTHERS HIM IN ITS FOLDS... HE **STRUGGLES** TO FREE HIMSELF!

TRY THAT ON FOR SIZE, IKARIS! IT'S THE *LATEST* IN DEVIANT TECH-NOLOGY!

HA, HA, HA! WE **WON** OUR DELAY!

IKARIS CAN'T SEE OR HEAR! ON TO THE BEACON! DESTROY IT! **DESTROY IT!**

IT SHALL BE *DONE* NOBLE KRO!

SUDDENLY, THE HUMANS RUSH INTO ACTION!

**HOLD** THEM, FATHER, WHILE I *HELP* IKARIS!

DON'T WORRY, MARGO! I'LL PICK OFF THOSE DEVIANTS AND HAVE THEM *RUNNING FOR COVER!!*

BLAM!

BLAM!

AT THAT MOMENT, THE ENTIRE PLANET SEEMS TO SHAKE FROM A MIGHTY **SOUND** WHICH HASN'T BEEN HEARD SINCE ANCIENT TIMES!

A GIGANTIC **SHADOW** DARKENS THE PLAIN WHERE THE RUINS STAND. SOMETHING WHICH HAS **SHATTERED** TIME AND SPACE TO FIND A PEBBLE CALLED "EARTH"--NOW DESCENDS WITH OVERPOWERING MAJESTY!!

THE BATTLE IN THE GOD CHAMBER IS HALTED AS QUICKLY AS IT BEGAN SHOCKED INTO SILENCE, THE COMBATANTS SLOWLY EMERGE FROM THE RUIN.

TOO LATE! I'VE FOUGHT IN *VAIN*! THE GODS HAVE *FOUND* US!

IKARIS! I--I CAN'T MAKE IT OUT IS IT--?

WHAT HE SAYS IS *TRUE*! THE GODS ARE *LANDING*!

THE WITNESSES TO THIS EVENT STARE AT WHAT IS HAPPENING--UNABLE TO ABSORB WHAT THIS MEANS TO THEIR LIVES, TO THE EXISTENCE OF ALL LIFE ON EARTH! FOR, THE GODS TOWER OVER TIME ITSELF! THEY CAN ONLY BE MET WITH HUSHED SILENCE.

*THEN--THE SILENCE IS BROKEN.*

THE DEVIANTS SHALL *FIGHT* TO THE LAST.

HOW CAN YOU FIGHT WHAT YOU *HAVEN'T* YET SEEN?

WE SHALL SEE THEM *NOW*--AND IN DOING SO, LEARN MORE ABOUT OURSELVES THEN WE HAVE *EVER* KNOWN!

FOR THE SAKE OF THE GODS--GET THE NEXT **ISSUE**!! READ THE

**Celestials From Space!**

IT IS SOMEHOW FITTING THAT REPRESENTATIVES OF EARTH'S **THREE** DOMINANT RACES ARE ON HAND TO MEET THE MASTER IMAGE IMPRINTED ON THEIR GENES. WHAT DO THE GODS **LOOK LIKE? WHAT CAN THEY DO TO AN UNSUSPECTING EARTH?**

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# WHEN GODS WALK THE EARTH!

# THE ETERNALS™

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MORE FANTASTIC THAN CHARIOTS OF THE GODS!

THIS IS IT!!

THE COMING OF THE CELESTIALS!

Stan Lee PRESENTS: THE ETERNALS!™

JV214

WITNESS NOW, WHAT MAY HAPPEN SOON!!

# THE CELESTIALS!

THESE PEOPLE ARE WATCHING THE MOST OVER-WHELMING **OBJECT** EVER **SEEN** IN THE TWENTIETH CENTURY!

TURN THIS PAGE AND YOU WILL SEE IT TOO.!!

EDITED, WRITTEN, & DRAWN BY **JACK KIRBY**

JOHN VERPOORTEN, INKER
JOHN COSTANZA, LETTERER
GLYNIS WEIN, COLORIST

MARV WOLFMAN, CONSULTING EDITOR

IT HAPPENS ON A BROAD PLATEAU HIGH IN THE ANDES MOUNTAINS, WHERE ANCIENT MARKINGS, LAID DOWN BY A VANISHED RACE, STILL BECKON TO THE STARS. THE ANSWER COMES WITH A MIGHTY CRACK OF COSMIC THUNDER! A GIANT SHADOW HAS LEAPED THE GALAXIES AND APPEARED IN THE SKIES ABOVE EARTH!!! GREAT FLASHES PROBE THE PLAIN AND ITS SILENT RUINS... A SPACECRAFT OF INDESCRIBABLE DIMENSIONS DESCENDS...

THE GODS HAVE RETURNED!!!

THE INCA LEGENDS OF STRANGE VISITATIONS FROM SPACE HAVE BECOME FACT!

A SHIP FROM THE STARS! IT'S ENOUGH TO LEAVE ONE BREATHLESS!

HOW RIGHT THE INCAS WERE! IT'S A CRAFT FIT FOR GODS!

FOOL! THEY'VE BEEN HERE BEFORE! --AND IN THEIR WAKE THEY'VE ALWAYS LEFT DESTRUCTION!!!

REVELATIONS OF AN ASTOUNDING NATURE HAVE ALREADY PRECEEDED THE ARRIVAL OF THE SPACE GODS... FOR THE ONLOOKERS AT THE SCENE REPRESENT THE THREE DOMINANT SPECIES GENERATED BY THE GODS' FIRST VISIT TO EARTH, MILLIONS OF YEARS AGO! WAS IT CHANCE THAT BROUGHT THESE WITNESSES HERE?-- OR A DESTINY YET TO BE FULFILLED???

THE GODS SEEM MIGHTY INDEED! BUT I AM KRO! I COMMAND THE DEVIANTS!! --SCORNED AND MISSHAPEN-- BUT POWERFUL IN WAYS THAT MAY SURPRISE EVEN THE GODS!

I-I CAN'T SPEAK FOR ALL HUMANS-- BUT, I CAN ASSURE YOU THAT MY DAUGHTER AND I CAME HERE WITHOUT THE SLIGHTEST NOTION OF RUNNING INTO-- THIS!!!

MY SPECIES, THE ETERNALS, HAVE BEEN PREPARING FOR THIS FOR A THOUSAND OF YOUR YEARS!

SUDDENLY, KRO RUSHES FORWARD!!

SO HAVE THE DEVIANTS! WE HAVEN'T SPENT THESE PAST CENTURIES IN IDLE SPORT! YOU SHALL SEE!

HE MUST BE MAD TO DEFY THE BUILDERS OF SUCH A SHIP!

IT LOOKS LIKE WE'VE STUMBLED UPON AN OLD GRUDGE!

AN OLD SCAR, MARGO... THE DEVIANTS ONCE CHALLENGED THE GODS-- AND LOST!

YES, WE LOST! -- AND, WE WERE DRIVEN IN SHAME TO THE BOWELS OF THE EARTH!! BUT WE SHALL RISE AGAIN!

RRR UMMBLE!

OUR WILL IS STRONG! OUR WEAPONS ARE MIGHTY! OUR VICTORY IS SURE!

THE DEVIANTS SHALL SEND YOU BACK TO THE STARS! -- BROKEN IN DEFEAT AND FILLED WITH THE FEAR OF OUR PURSUIT!! HEAR THIS AND TREMBLE!!

IF THERE IS ANY SIGN FROM THE HOVERING GODS, IT IS THE SUDDEN EXPLOSIVE FLARE-UP IN ENERGY EMISSION...

CRAASHH!

FOOL! TO ANGER THE GODS IS TO INVITE DESTRUCTION!!

T-THAT LIGHTNING-- I-IT'S GET-TING WORSE!

WHAM!

THE STORM OF ENERGY SPREADS! THE SKIES GROW DARK-- AND THE EARTH IS **SHAKEN** BY TREMORS...

**QUICKLY,** MARGO! WE'VE **GOT** TO TAKE COVER!

CURSE THEM! **CURSE** THE GODS!

**WISELY** SPOKEN, DOCTOR! THE AIR IS FILLED WITH FLYING ROCK!

I-IF THIS KEEPS UP, THESE RUINS MAY **COLLAPSE** AND **BURY** US!

THE ANCIENT GOD CHAMBER IS **SAFE!** IT CAN WITH-STAND **ANY** ATTACK!

ALL WE HAVE TO DO IS **REACH** IT IN TIME!

**STRANGE,** THAT THE GODS SHOULD REACT WITH SUCH **WRATH!!**

I--IKARIS--Y-YOU'RE AN **ETERNAL**-- SOMETHING LIKE A GOD YOURSELF... CAN'T YOU, SOME-HOW, PUT A **STOP** TO THIS?

YES, **IF** I COULD READ THE THOUGHTS OF THE GODS! BUT THAT IS **BEYOND** ME!

LEGEND HAS IT THAT THERE WAS **ONE** WHO WAS GRANTED PERSONAL COMMUNICATION WITH THE GODS--THE INCAS CALLED HIM **"TECUMOTZIN, LORD OF FLIGHT.."**

AS ARCHAEOLOGISTS, MISS DAMIAN, YOU AND YOUR FATHER KNOW THAT TECUMOTZIN **VANISHED** WITH THE INCAS...

MEANWHILE, THE TREMORS GROW STRONGER! THE ANCIENT RUIN GROANS AND CRACKS BENEATH EACH SONIC SHOCK!!

THEY MEAN TO DESTROY US! WE'LL ALL DIE-- EXCEPT YOU, IKARIS! AN ETERNAL CAN'T DIE-- BUT HE CAN STAY BURIED FOR A LONG, LONG TIME!

THE ROOF! I-IT'S--

BLAAM!

Y-YOUR TROOPS AWAIT, GREAT KRO! WE CAN STILL ESCAPE! OUR VESSEL IS READY!

THEN I AM READY, TOO! WE CAN LEAVE THESE FOOLS TO THEIR FATE!

YOUR FATE IS SEALED AS WELL, KRO! THE GODS WILL REACH YOU, WHEREVER YOU FLEE!

THINK WELL UPON THE GODS, IKARIS! THE INCAS WORSHIPPED THEM-- AND VANISHED! THEIR HERO, TECUMOTZIN, BEFRIENDED THE GODS--AND VANISHED! NOW, YOU'VE COME HERE TO WELCOME THEM--AND SHALL BE BURIED FOR YOUR PAINS!

SO BE IT. THERE IS RISK IN SOLVING A MYSTERY!

BUT YOU RUN TO NO AVAIL, KRO! FOR YOU AND YOUR DEVIANTS, THE EARTH IS A BIG, ROUND *CAGE!* WHEN YOU COME OUT OF YOUR HOLES, *THE GODS WILL BE WAITING.!!*

I'LL REMEMBER THAT, IKARIS! -- LONG AFTER THIS BECOMES YOUR *TOMB,* AND YOUR NAME JOINS THAT OF FAMED *TECUMOTZIN* AMONG THE VANISHED!

*THE CHAMBER OF THE GODS IS HUGE AND AGELESS. ITS PURPOSE, LOST TO TIME. BUT, THE BOTTOM OF ITS GIANT WELL LEADS TO THE OPEN SEA.*

*WHEN KRO AND HIS GROUP LEAVE IN THEIR UNDERSEA VESSEL, THEY WILL NEVER RETURN TO THIS PLACE AGAIN WITHOUT FEAR OF DANGER, FOR THE CHAMBER'S ORIGINAL PURPOSE IS DESTINED TO BE FULFILLED!!!*

KRO AND HIS JACKALS ARE GONE. WE'RE FORTUNATE THAT THEY HAD TO TAKE THEIR HATE WITH THEM!

I'M GLAD! I'D RATHER *DIE HERE,* THAN *JOIN* THOSE DEVIANTS!

THE SHOCKS SEEM TO HAVE *DIMINISHED,* BUT WE MAY *STILL* BE IN DANGER!

WE HUMANS HAVE A LOT OF HISTORY TO CATCH UP WITH. NO DOUBT THE DEVIANTS HAVE BEEN PART OF OUR LEGENDS AS DEMONS AND DEVILS-- BUT WHAT ARE THE FACTS?

THE GODS AND ETERNALS KNOW THEM BEST...WE ONCE MADE THE *MISTAKE* OF LEAVING THE DEVIANTS TO THEIR *OWN* DEVICES...

THE DEVIANTS SWARMED ACROSS THE WORLD WITH THEIR *COMPLEX* WEAPONS, AND CONQUERED IT! THEY BUILT *TOWERING* CITIES ON ISLAND-CONTINENTS LIKE LEMURIA AND *RULED AS KINGS.*

THEY HAD AIRCRAFT AND NAVIES OF STEEL WHICH *SCOURGED* THE SEAS AND SWEPT THEM CLEAN OF *ANCIENT* MANKIND...

IN TIME, THE DEVIANTS BROUGHT *EVERY* HUMAN BENEATH THEIR HEEL-- AND USED MAN AS ONE WOULD A *BEAST* OF THE FIELD. THUS, THEY LIVED IN LUXURY AND *FATTENED* ON THE EARTH'S BOUNTY...

THIS TYRANNY **CONTINUED** FOR CENTURIES--AND WHEN THE GODS APPEARED IN THOSE TIMES, THEY WERE MET BY **MASSIVE,** HOSTILE ACTION!!

WAAZZMMM

THE DEVIANTS, EVER ARROGANT AND CRUEL, SAW THIS VISITATION AS A CHALLENGE TO THEIR WORLDWIDE EMPIRE! THEY STRUCK **FIRST** AND **FAILED**--THE GODS STRUCK IN TURN AND **SUCCEEDED** IN TOPPLING THE DEVIANTS WITH A WEAPON 'TIL THEN **UNKNOWN** TO THEM...

IT WAS **ONE** OF ITS KIND, BUT ITS TERRIBLE POWER **SHOOK** THE WORLD--ITS FIRES LEAPED FROM ONE CONTINENT TO ANOTHER AND TURNED THEM INTO **BLAZING** SUNS...

GREAT WINDS AND FIRE STORMS **LEVELED** THE BASTIONS OF POWER. TIDAL WAVES THE SIZE OF **MOUNTAINS** DROWNED THE LAND AND ALL THAT LIVED UPON IT. LEMURIA AND ITS SISTER CONTINENTS VANISHED IN THAT ONE DARK DAY...

WE ETERNALS, ON OUR MOUNTAIN TOPS, LOOKED DOWN, BUT COULD DO NOTHING. HOWEVER, I, MYSELF, MANAGED TO GUIDE A GREAT WOODEN VESSEL TO SAFETY, WHEN I DISCOVERED IT CARRIED A CARGO OF HUMANS AND WILDLIFE...

I LED THEM TO A MOUNTAIN TOP WHICH JUTTED FROM THE WATERS, AND LEVITATED TO MY DISTANT HOME... I SUPPOSE THOSE HUMANS MISTOOK ME FOR SOME KIND OF BIRD...

Y-YOU LIVED AT THE TIME OF THE FLOOD? YOU SAW-- THE ARK?

I-IT'S INCREDABLE!

ETERNALS! DEVIANTS! GODS THAT FLY IN SPACESHIPS! IT'S JUST TOO MUCH FOR ME, DAD... TOO MUCH!

THERE, THERE, MY DEAR... THIS HAS BEEN A TRYING EXPERIENCE...

IT CANNOT CHANGE-- YOU MUST ACCEPT THIS CALMLY...

THEN, AS IKARIS SURVEYS THE GREAT GOD CHAMBER, HIS GAZE SETTLES UPON AN ANCIENT INCA CARVING...

WHAT ARE YOU UP TO NOW, IKARIS? THAT'S JUST ANOTHER INCA GOD SYMBOL!

WRONG, DOCTOR. I CAN READ THE INSCRIPTION. THAT'S NOT A GOD FROM SPACE!

THE INCAS CALLED THIS A RESURRECTION CRYPT! ACCORDING TO THE INSCRIPTION, IT CAN BE TRIGGERED TO OPEN-- LIKE THIS!

THERE IS A CLICK...THE SOFT CRACKLE OF ENERGY... AS THE CRYPT DOOR SLOWLY FALLS OPEN...

IF MY INTERPRETATION IS *CORRECT*, WE'RE ABOUT TO WITNESS THE RETURN TO LIFE OF THE LEGENDARY INCA HERO-- *TECUMOTZIN, LORD OF FLIGHT!*

STEADY, MARGO... *BRACE* YOURSELF FOR YET *ANOTHER* MARVEL!

THIS TECUMOTZIN-- IKARIS MENTIONED HIM *EARLIER* HE WAS THE ONE WHO COULD *COMMUNICATE* WITH THE GODS...

*SHIELD* YOUR EYES, MY DEAR-- THERE'S SOME SORT OF *RADIO-ACTIVE* PROCESS TAKING PLACE IN THAT CRYPT!!

THE ONLOOKERS ARE *UNAWARE* THAT THEY'RE WATCHING THE FORMING AND RE-FORMING OF MANY INDIVIDUAL ATOMIC STRUCTURES-- *LIVING ATOMS BECOMING MEN!*

IT TAKES MERE MINUTES...THE BRILLIANCE FADES AND A THIN MIST VEILS THE MOVING, MAN-LIKE SHADOWS BEYOND...

IT IS *DONE!* IF THE CARVINGS WERE TRUE, I MAY HAVE BROUGHT US AID FROM THE *PAST!!*

THERE ARE *MEN* IN THE CRYPT! *T-THEY'RE ALIVE!*

GOOD LORD! *T-THEY'RE COMING OUT!!!*

THERE IS A MOMENT OF **STUNNED** SILENCE--AN AUDIBLE INTAKE OF BREATH--A MOMENT WHEN THE HEART SKIPS A BEAT--THEN...

TO WORK, UNIT! LEAP TO YOUR TASKS!

WE HAVEN'T BEEN RESTORED WITHOUT REASON! THE GODS HAVE RETURNED!

BY THE POLAR WINDS! DO MY EYES DECEIVE ME? CAN IT BE THAT A FELLOW ETERNAL HAS BROUGHT US BACK TO ACTION?

IKARIS, OLD FRIEND! EVEN IN THESE INCA TRAPPINGS, YOU MUST KNOW ME!

HA HA HA HA! SO, YOU THOUGHT TO SEE THE INCA HERO, TECUMOTZIN, EH? WELL, SO YOU HAVE! IT IS THE NAME THEY GAVE TO ME!

BUT TO YOU, I SHALL ALWAYS BE AJAK-- YOUR FRIEND!

AJAK! THIS IS A WONDROUS MOMENT! IT SEEMS AN AGE SINCE YOU LEFT THE POLAR MOUNTAINS IN SEARCH OF THE GODS! IT WAS AS THOUGH TIME ITSELF HAD SWALLOWED YOU FROM SIGHT...

H-HE'S AN ETERNAL-- LIKE IKARIS!

AN ETERNAL WHO LIVED AMONG THE ANCIENT INCAS!

YOU FOUND THE GODS, AJAK-- WHEN THEY APPEARED TO THE INCAS -- YOU WERE THERE!

I WAS THERE, IKARIS... I CAME TO KNOW THE GODS!

THEN WITH YOUR HELP, I CAN SAFE-GUARD THESE GOOD HUMAN FOLK...

NO DANGER SHALL EVER CLAIM THIS SWEET YOUNG THING!

FORGIVE ME, BLUEBIRD. I MUST PERFORM AN URGENT TASK!

UNIT! MAN YOUR POSTS! OPEN WIDE THE COSMIC DOOR AND INITIATE THE PROCEDURE OF WELCOME FOR THE CELESTIALS!

WE HASTEN, SIRE!

SO THAT'S IT! I BEGIN TO UNDER-STAND IT, NOW!

I THINK THAT I DO TOO, DAD...

THE TOUCH OF A TRIDENT OPENS THE "COSMIC DOOR" WHICH REVEALS WHAT HAS BEEN HIDDEN FROM HUMAN EYES FOR CENTURIES-- IT IS THE INCA VERSION OF A FLIGHT CONTROL ROOM!

THE UNIT IS IN OPERATION, LORD OF FLIGHT!

LINK UP WITH THE CELESTIALS-- SO THAT THEY MAY HEAR MY VOICE!

THEY'RE A GROUND CREW, MARGO-- THE KIND WE USE AT ANY AIRPORT! THIS MAKES SENSE NOW!

THE PRESENCE OF THE CELESTIALS IS AT ITS HIGHEST, SIRE! I'VE MADE IT KNOWN THAT OUR ATOMS ARE REASSEMBLED. AND, THAT YOU, THE CHOSEN ONE, STAND BY TO GREET THEM!

SO SHALL IT BE! ONCE MORE I STAND HUMBLE IN THEIR SIGHT! OPEN THE CHANNEL!

HAIL TO THE CELESTIAL HOSTS AND THOSE WHO LEAD THEM! WE, THE REFLECTIONS OF YOUR IMAGE, AWAIT THE MEANING OF YOUR NEW MISSION...

SO THIS IS WHAT THE GODS EXPECTED UPON THEIR ARRIVAL! NO WONDER WE WERE DRIVEN FROM THE FIELD!

THEY TRAIN GROUND CREWS-- AND STORE THEIR ATOMS WHEN THEY'RE NOT NEEDED!

THUS, AJAK AND THIS UNIT WERE STORED FOR AN AGE!

ALL CONVERSATION **CEASES** AS SOMETHING THAT IS **MORE** THAN A VOICE ECHOES EVERYWHERE IN THE ROOM...

WHEN THE FIRST OF US APPEARS TO YOU, FAITHFUL ONE--LOOK WELL UPON HIS VISAGE--AND KNOW THE MEANING OF OUR MISSION.

WHOEVER **THAT** MAY BE, WE AWAIT WITH SUBMISSION AS THE CROPS IN THE FIELD WAIT FOR THE PLANTER WHOSE **HAND** DID SOW THEM...

**WELCOME,** GREAT CELESTIALS AND **DESCEND** AMONG US!

AJAK TURNS TO HIS UNIT AND BARKS THE ORDERS THAT WOULD BRING THE GODS TO EARTH...

PREPARE TO RAISE THE CEREMONIAL PYLONS BENEATH THE CELESTIALS' SPACECRAFT! EVEN NOW, THE FIRST OF THE GODS DESCENDS!

ON THE GREAT FIELD OUTSIDE, A HUGE PYLON RISES FROM THE GROUND. A **PILLAR** OF BLAZING ENERGY LEAPS FROM ITS TOP--AND WITHIN THAT BRIGHT FLAME THE **FIRST** SIGNS OF THE CELESTIAL ARE SEEN...

ARISHEM, LEADER OF THE FOURTH HOST, LANDS FIRMLY UPON THE PYLON. HE WILL STAND UPON IT FOR FIFTY EARTH YEARS, TOWERING LIKE THE SURROUNDING MOUNTAINS ABOVE ALL LIFE BELOW! AND, ON THE LAST DAY OF THE FIFTIETH YEAR--HE WILL STEP FROM THE PYLON--AND ON THAT DAY, EARTH WILL LIVE--OR DIE!

DON'T STOP SHAKING YET, FANS! THERE'S LOTS MORE SHAKING TO BE DONE!!!

WATCH FOR..

THE DEVIL IN NEW YORK

IN OUR NEXT NERVE SHATTERING ISSUE!

THE ETERNALS

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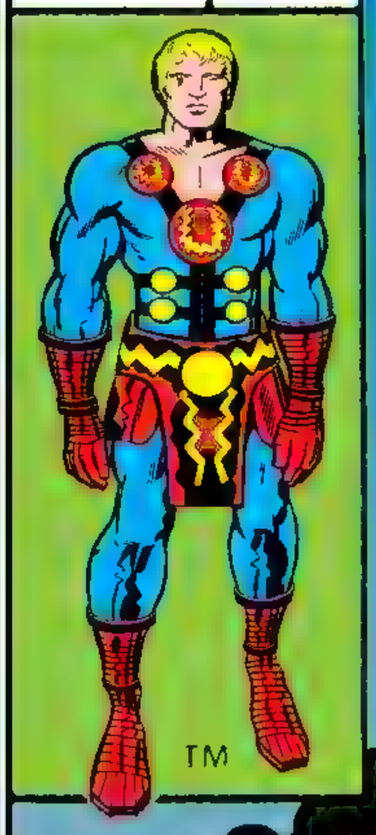

WHEN GODS WALK THE EARTH!

# THE ETERNALS™

## DEVIL IN THE SKY!

Stan Lee PRESENTS:

# THE ETERNALS!™

JV230

IN THIS MAGAZINE, THE **HIDDEN** CHAPTERS IN THE HISTORY OF MAN ARE QUICKLY BEING **REVEALED**... UNTOUCHED FOR **THOUSANDS** OF YEARS, A LARGE CRYPT IN AN INCA RUIN HAS DISCHARGED A LIVING **FLIGHT CREW**... FOR A **SPACECRAFT** HAS APPEARED--AND **THIS IS THEIR CENTURY TO SERVICE THE**

# The DEVIL in NEW YORK!

ONE OF THE GREAT CELESTIALS HAS **LANDED**...

IT IS **ARISHEM--LEADER OF THE FOURTH HOST!** THE MISSION OF THE GODS IS NOW **CLEAR**... THIS IS THE HOUR OF **EARTH'S** TRIAL!

BUT WHAT DOES IT **MEAN**, AJAK? DOES THIS ARISHEM HERALD THE COMING OF DISASTROUS TIMES, SUCH AS BEFELL MAN IN THE **DISTANT PAST**?

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THE ANSWER LIES IN THE **OVERPOWERING** PRESENCE OF ARISHEM--HE IS A GIANT WHO RIVALS THE SURROUNDING MOUNTAINS. AND ON HIS **OPEN** PALM IS THE FORMULA THAT ENABLES HIM TO **DECIMATE** WORLDS. HE IS A SPACE GOD... FACELESS, AS YET, TO ALL WHO VIEW HIM... BUT, WHEN HE STEPS DOWN FROM HIS CEREMONIAL PYLON IN FIFTY YEARS, ALL LIVING CREATURES ON EARTH SHALL SEE HIM--AND **KNOW** THAT THEY'VE BEEN JUDGED...

CENTURIES AGO, HIS KIND CAME HERE TO **TOPPLE** GREAT CIVILIZATIONS WITH WEAPONS THAT SHOOK THE WORLD!

A-AS AN ARCHAEOLOGIST, I-I'M **DUMBFOUNDED** AT THE SIGHT OF AN ANCIENT MYTH COME **ALIVE!**

THE CELESTIALS WERE HERE **BEFORE** MAN, **DOCTOR DAMIAN!** LOOK WELL UPON THE SOURCE OF **MANY** MYSTERIES!

SOME OF ARISHEM'S **MIGHTY** HOST ARE ABOUT TO **DISEMBARK** FROM THE SPACECRAFT...

**THEY** WILL COMMAND THIS PLACE NOW. AND WE, THEIR SERVANTS, SHALL STAND BY AND **MARVEL** AT THEIR DEVICES!

AND SO, IT BEGINS-- A *NEW AGE* OF THE SPACE GODS ON EARTH! THIS IS THEIR HOUR-- WHAT HAPPENS *NOW* IS BEYOND RECKONING!

THEY PLANTED *INTELLIGENT* LIFE ON THIS PLANET-- THE CROP HAS MATURED... THE CELESTIALS WILL TEST IT AND *WEIGH* ITS VALUE!

THIS IS A *WONDERFUL* OPPORTUNITY TO STUDY THESE CELESTIALS.

W-WILL IT BE *DANGEROUS?*

WHAT IS *OUR* POSITION, AJAK?

YOU HAVE A *CHOICE*, IKARIS--YOU MAY STAY--OR *LEAVE*--

THE CELESTIALS INTEND TO *SEAL OFF* THIS AREA--IT WILL REMAIN THUS FOR THE NEXT *FIFTY YEARS*...

THAT'S *BAD* NEWS, MARGO. YOU *CAN'T* POSSIBLY STAY.

B-BUT THIS IS SO *RIDICULOUS*. *WHY* ARE THE CELESTIALS DOING THIS?

THERE'S *NO* WAY TO QUESTION THE CELESTIALS, CHILD! WHAT THEY *DECIDE* TO DO--THEY *WILL* DO-- IF WE LEAVE, A TREASURE HOUSE OF KNOWLEDGE WILL BE *LOST* TO US...

...AND IF WE STAY, WE'LL BE SHUT IN THIS PLACE FOR A *HALF CENTURY*-- AGING--PERHAPS *DYING*.

HOW MUCH TIME IS LEFT TO US *BEFORE* THE CELESTIALS BEGIN THIS "*SEALING OFF*," AJAK?

ONLY *MOMENTS*, IKARIS. YOU HUMANS MUST MAKE YOUR DECISION, *NOW*!

GOOD LORD-- ONLY *MOMENTS* LEFT--

I-I CAN'T BELIEVE THIS--I--!

*RRRRMMMMMM*

HUSH, MARGO-- WHAT'S THAT SOUND--?

ARISHEM'S HOST IS *DESCENDING*. YOUR TIME IS *ALMOST* GONE...

YOU CAN'T STAY, MARGO! YOU'LL BE *OLD* WHEN THE SEAL IS LIFTED...COME WITH ME!

THE OMINOUS SOUND GROWS LOUDER-- AND DECISION BECOMES THE MOST AGONIZING EFFORT OF THE HUMAN WILL...

HEED THE WORD OF IKARIS, HUMANS. HE AND I ARE ETERNALS, WE ARE AGELESS-- WE CAN WEATHER TIME WITHOUT EFFECT--BUT, YOU--!

--GO NOW! GO NOW!

MARGO! LISTEN TO ME! ALL I'VE EVER HOPED TO FIND IS HERE-- I MUST STAY!

WHAT I'M TRYING TO SAY IS THAT YOU CAN'T SACRIFICE YOUR YOUTH FOR MY DREAMS!

DAD--!

RRRRMMM!

YOUR FATHER HAS MADE HIS CHOICE, MARGO--BUT, YOU'VE HESITATED TOO LONG--I'M DECIDING FOR YOU!--WE'RE LEAVING!

IKARIS SEIZES THE GIRL AND TUCKS HER BENEATH HIS BRAWNY ARM--THEN--!

WELL DONE, IKARIS-- WE'LL MEET AGAIN-- IN FIFTY YEARS...

I'LL SEE THAT SHE REMAINS SAFE, SIR!

GOOD BYE, MARGO... BE HAPPY, CHILD!

LET ME GO!!

DAD! DAD!!

WWMMMMM!!

TIME HAS RUN OUT... AS IKARIS BOLTS FROM THE INCA RUIN WITH HIS BURDEN, GREAT, MOVING SHADOWS CAN BE SEEN ACROSS THE PLATEAU...

THE HOST IS AT WORK! THE JOB OF CLOSING THE AREA HAS BEGUN!

PUT ME DOWN! I-I MAY NEVER SEE MY FATHER AGAIN!

THE GIANT ARISHEM STANDS SILENT ON THE PYLON AS HIS HOST GLIDES INTO POSITION...

IKARIS! PLEASE! I MUST STAY!

IT'S TOO LATE FOR WORDS, MARGO. THE EXPEDITION PLANE STANDS READY TO FLY US OUT!

IKARIS ACTS WITH LIGHTNING-LIKE SPEED! HE JAMS MARGO INTO THE LIGHT PLANE DESPITE HER STRUGGLE AND PROTEST!!

ANIMAL! ANIMAL! YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE DOING!

GET IN-- AND STOP FIGHTING ME!

DON'T YOU UNDER-STAND!!? YOU'RE THINKING WITH YOUR EMOTIONS!! YOU'RE NOT BEING REALISTIC!

I DON'T CARE! I DON'T CARE!!-- DAD WILL DIE HERE! LET ME OUT!!!

IKARIS THE ETERNAL SETTLES THE MATTER-- TWIN BEAMS OF ENERGY SHOOT FROM HIS EYES AND STRIKE THE GIRL...

SOME DAY, YOU'LL THANK ME FOR THIS--

UNG--!

MARGO SLUMPS IN HER SEAT...HER HEAD FALLING BACK AS SHE DRIFTS OFF INTO SLEEP.

POOR GIRL--THIS HAS BEEN A TERRIBLE ORDEAL FOR HER...THE LOSS OF A FATHER IS A GREAT PRICE TO PAY FOR A FULL LIFE--

IN TIME THE GODS WILL EXACT SUCH PAY-MENT FROM US ALL!!

THE HOST HAS BEGUN ITS WORK--SOON, THIS PLATEAU WILL BE "SEALED OFF" BY AN INPENETRABLE ATOM SHIELD...

I'VE ONLY SECONDS LEFT TO TAKE OFF.

THE CELESTIALS DISRUPT AND CHANGE THE ATOMS IN THE AIR--THEY ARE INDIFFERENT TO THE SMALL PLANE FLEEING TO THE OUTSIDE WORLD...

VROOMMM

MEANWHILE, IN THE UNDERSEA KINGDOM OF THE **DEVIANTS**, ANOTHER **HIDDEN CHAPTER** OF HISTORY UNFOLDS... THESE ARE CRUEL AND MISSHAPEN PEOPLE WHO SHARE THE **SAME**, COMMON ANCESTOR WITH HUMANS AND ETERNALS. LIKE IKARIS. ONCE, THESE DEVIANTS DARED TO CHALLENGE THE GODS AND LOST... NOW, LIKE THE GODS, THAT DREAM HAS BEEN **RESURRECTED**...

PUNISHMENT **WON'T** CHANGE HIM! **KRO** WILL BE A FOOL TO THE END!

YOU **KNEW** THAT THE GODS WERE RETURNING TO EARTH, KRO! YET YOU **FAILED** TO STOP THEM! THEY WILL SOON BE UPON US!

**HMPH!** WITH SUCH A WARLORD TO LEAD US, I PREDICT A **GLOOMY** FUTURE FOR OUR HOPES!

**NOT SO! NOT SO!** RELEASE ME--AND WE SHALL **BEAT** THE GODS--

(CACKLE) HE'S **BOASTFUL** AS EVER!! OUR RULING FAMILY HAS **NEVER** BEEN SHORT OF BRAG-GARTS!!

YET, KRO IS **NOT** WITHOUT CLEVERNESS AND SPIRIT! I SAY **GIVE** HIM HIS CHANCE! **RELEASE HIM!**

INCIDENTALLY, IF YOU'D LIKE MORE OF A **FILL IN** ON THE DEVIANTS, GET THE TWO PREVIOUS ISSUES AND SEE A **STARTLING** VIEW OF PRE-HISTORY.--YOUR PAL **J.K.**

AT A SILENT COMMAND FROM GREAT TODE, THE RULER, TWO GUARDS UNCLAMP KRO FROM THE TORMENT MACHINE...

YOU'VE DONE YOUR PENANCE, KRO... COME FORTH AND GROVEL FOR AMNESTY!

KLIK!

KLIK!

I THANK YOU, SIRE!

SEE, HOW HE FEIGNS HUMILITY!

WHAT ARE YOUR PLANS, KRO?

TO DEFEAT THE GODS!

HAHAHAHAHA! A TALL ORDER, BRAGGART!

I WOULD HEAR MORE, KRO... I WOULD HEAR HOW THIS JOYOUS VICTORY OVER THE GODS MAY COME ABOUT...

YES, TELL US, O' GLORIOUS LEADER OF OUR FORCES...

THE HUMANS SHALL DO OUR WORK FOR US! ALL THEY NEED IS THE PROPER GOADING... AND WHEN THEY BEGIN TO FEAR-- THEY BEGIN TO DESTROY!

THE HUMANS NO LONGER LIVE IN CAVES OR CARRY SPEARS... THEY LAUGH AT THE CONCEPT OF EVIL SPIRITS!

KRO'S BOWED HEAD SLOWLY RISES--AND UPON IT ARE THE PRODUCTS OF HIS ABILITY TO MANIP-ULATE HIS OWN ATOMIC STRUCTURE...

THEY WILL NOT LAUGH AT THIS, GREAT TODE...

FOR, TO THIS VERY DAY, THIS IMAGE LINGERS LIKE A VIRUS IN THEIR BRAINS!

HAHAHAHAHA! GIVE THE HUMANS A REAL DEVIL AND THEY'LL DESTROY THE GALAXY TO BE RID OF HIM!

THE DEVIL! HAHA HA--

VERY CLEVER, KRO! THE HUMANS WILL SEE YOU--BUT THINK IT IS THE GODS! THEIR WAR SHALL BE OUR OPPORTUNITY. VERY GOOD--VERY GOOD--

AT THAT MOMENT, A SMALL PLANE HURDLES THE HIGH ANDES MOUNTAINS WITH THE SMOOTHNESS OF A GLIDING CONDOR...

I'M AWAKE, IKARIS! I-I'LL RAISE NO FUSS--IF YOU RETURN ME TO MY FATHER!

THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE, MARGO...

YOUR FATHER IS WHERE HE WANTS TO BE--WITH AJAK AND THE CELESTIALS! HE WILL LIVE OUT HIS YEARS, UNDISTURBED AND HAPPY IN HIS WORK... WHEN HIS DAYS ARE DONE, HE WILL KNOW MORE THAN ANY OTHER HUMAN--

WHAT'S TO BECOME OF ME? WHAT WILL THE FUTURE BE LIKE--WITH-OUT FATHER?

MARGO GLANCES DOWN AT THE MOUNTAINS BELOW... IN THE DISTANCE, A GIGANTIC WHITE HEMISPHERE COVERS THE PLACE OF THE GODS. IT GLOWS WITH A FINE RADIANCE--A NEW MYSTERY FOR THE WORLD TO SOLVE...

SUDDENLY, IKARIS TAKES THE PLANE TO THE LEVELS ABOVE THE CLOUDS--THE MOUNTAINS HAVE GIVEN WAY TO A KINGDOM OF WHITE, COTTON VAPORS...

IT'S BEAUTIFUL--BUT NOT BEAUTIFUL ENOUGH TO HEAL MY WOUND...

THIS SHOULD HELP, MARGO. THINGS LOOK MUCH BETTER UP HERE...

IKARIS! YOU TOOK YOUR HANDS OFF THE CONTROLS! YOU'LL SEND US INTO A SPIN!

THIS PLANE IS NOW FLYING IN RESPONSE TO MY VERY THOUGHT!

IT MUST BE TRUE! I-I ALMOST FORGOT THAT YOU'RE AN ETERNAL -- ONE OF THE RACE OF MYSTICS WHO LIVE ON MOUNTAIN TOPS...

AGES OF DEVELOPMENT HAVE GIVEN US GREAT MENTAL POWERS...

WHA--?

YOUR CLOTHES! TH-THEY'VE-- CHANGED!

WHAT I WORE BEFORE WAS AN ILLUSION. THIS IS TYPICAL OF THE RAINMENT WORN BY MY SPECIES... IT IS SIMPLE... LIKE ALL OUR NEEDS...

W-WHAT ARE YOU DOING NOW? B-BE CAREFUL!

HAVE NO FEAR FOR ME, GIRL! THE SKY IS PART OF MY ENVIRONMENT! TO AN ETERNAL IT IS--HOME!

IKARIS! GOOD LORD!

AHHH! THIS IS THE PLACE FOR SPORT! THAT IS IF ONE POSSESSES THE POWER TO LEVITATE!

IKARIS, IN A FANTASTIC DISPLAY OF SKY DIVING, COMPLETES HIS MANEUVERS AND PACES THE PLANE...

STAY COOL, MARGO-- YOU'RE AS SAFE AS I AM...

B-BUT, IKARIS--

IKARIS WHEELS ABOUT THE SKY-- A THING OUT OF LEGEND AND MYTH -- A SIGHT OF GRACE AND BREATH-TAKING WONDER...

PLEASE, COME BACK! Y-YOU'RE FANTASTIC-- BUT FRIGHT-ENING!

THEN, A BRIGHT, JAGGED FLASH CATCHES HIM IN MID-FLIGHT AND STAGGERS HIM WITH ITS POTENT POWER...

UGH!..

TZTTCH!!

THE CLOUDS HAVE PARTED TO REVEAL THE SEA BELOW... AND THE STRANGE AIRCRAFT WHICH HURTLES FROM ITS GREEN DEPTHS...

THE ETERNAL IS UNINJURED!

THE Z-RAY CAN KILL A HUNDRED HUMANS! IT SHOULD HAVE WOUNDED ONE LIKE IKARIS!

HIT HIM WITH THE SHOCK HOWITZER!

WHAM!

SHAKEN AND STUNNED, IKARIS MANAGES TO EVADE THE EFFORT TO DISABLE HIM!

IT'S THE DEVIANTS! THEY'VE COME OUT OF THEIR OCEAN RAT-HOLES!

DON'T BE FRIGHTENED, MARGO--I'LL HANDLE THEM!!

IKARIS! W-WHAT'S HAPPENING!?

ZZAAPP!!!

HIT HIM, YOU FOOLS!

INSIDE THE PLANE--

Y-YOU'RE HURT! I-I DON'T KNOW HOW TO HELP YOU--!

STAY YOUR FEARS, GIRL-- ETERNALS CAN BE HURT-- BUT THEY *CANNOT* DIE!!

W-WHAT HAPPENS *NOW?* THAT HOSTILE SHIP IS DETERMINED TO WRECK US!! WE *HAVEN'T* GOT A CHANCE OF ESCAPING--!

PLEASE, *LISTEN,* MARGO! DO AS I TELL YOU! SIT BACK IN YOUR SEAT AND *BRACE* YOURSELF!

IKARIS *SHUTS* HIS EYES AND BEGINS TO CONCENTRATE ON SOME *UNFATHOMABLE* THOUGHT... HIS BROW KNITS-- AND THE SKIN TIGHTENS ON HIS RUGGED FEATURES.

MEANWHILE, IN THE PURSUING AIRCRAFT, *KRO* THE DEVIANT HARANGUES HIS CREW TO *GREATER* EFFORT!!!

THIS SHOT WILL DO THE JOB, SIRE! *I'M RIGHT ON TARGET!*

MAKE *CERTAIN* THIS TIME! *BLAST THEM OUT OF THE SKY!*

IN THE ELECTRONIC GUNSIGHT, THE LIGHT PLANE APPEARS LIKE A HELPLESS MOTH-- AWAITING SUDDEN DESTRUCTION...

STEADY-- STEADY--

--*NOW!*

BUT, A FRACTION OF AN INSTANT *BEFORE* THE TRIGGER IS PRESSED, THE VIEW-SCREEN GOES *BLANK!* ITS TARGET *VANISHES* FROM SIGHT... THE ASTONISHED GUNNER STARES AT AN EMPTY SKY...

WHA--!?

*POP!*

THEN--!

I-IT VANISHED SIRE! TH-THE TARGET SIMPLY --VANISHED!

FOOLS! DUNDERHEADS! IDIOTS! YOU ALLOWED THEM TO ESCAPE! I'LL HAVE YOUR HIDES FOR THIS!

BUT IKARIS IS AN ETERNAL, SIRE... THEY'RE NEVER SHORT OF TRICKS!

NO, THEY'RE NOT... ETERNALS ARE CLEVER AND TALENTED! BUT WE DEVIANTS ARE RELENTLESS IN PURSUIT!

WE'LL FIND IKARIS AGAIN! MEANWHILE, CONTINUE ON OUR PRESENT COURSE. WE HAVE A JOB TO DO-- IN NEW YORK!

WHERE ONLY ASTRONAUTS ARE TRAINED TO TRAVEL, IKARIS HAS TAKEN THE SAME PATH WITH AN EASE UNKNOWN TO MAN--THE PLANE IS NOW ENCAPSULATED TO SHIELD IT, IN REGIONS WHERE IT WAS NEVER MEANT TO FLY...

YOU'RE TAKING THIS WELL, MARGO. YOU HAVE COURAGE!

I-I'M JUST TOO PETRIFIED T-TO SHOW MY FRIGHT!

THE RATE OF SPEED IS ENORMOUS-- THE CAPSULE COVERS THOUSANDS OF MILES IN FLEETING SECONDS...

NEW YORK!

W-WE'RE DESCENDING... W-WHERE ARE WE HEADED FOR?

NEW YORK!? B-BUT DAD AND I HAVE A HOME IN DENVER... I-I THOUGHT YOU WOULD TAKE ME--

I INTENDED TO TAKE YOU THERE-- BUT A MENTAL PROBE OF THE DEVIANTS IN THAT AIRCRAFT HAS CHANGED MY MIND...

TRUST ME, MARGO. YOU SHALL BE COMFORTABLE AND SAFE--

SHORTLY, OVER MANHATTAN ISLAND, THE **ATOMS** OF THE CAPSULE DISSOLVE AND THE LIGHT PLANE, WHICH COULD **NEVER** HAVE MADE SUCH A JOURNEY, GLIDES TOWARD KENNEDY AIRPORT...

WE'RE GOING IN, MARGO!

I-IT'S BEEN AN **UNBELIEVABLE** TRIP...

THE LANDING IS MADE -- IKARIS AND MARGO MAKE THEIR WAY TO AN ADDRESS ON NEW YORK'S WEST SIDE...

THANKS, CABBY... KEEP THE CHANGE... I **ENJOYED** YOUR SENSE OF HUMOR!

WE **NEED** ONE HERE, BUDDY!

WE HAVE A FRIEND IN THIS BUILDING -- SOMEONE WHO WILL **HELP** YOU DURING YOUR STAY...

YOUR CLOTHES ARE AN **ILLUSION.** AND MINE LOOK **RIDICULOUS** HERE. I HOPE THIS FRIEND IS A **TOLERANT** PERSON--

IN THE ELEVATOR--

WHAT FLOOR DO YOU WISH, SIR?

TENTH FLOOR... **MISS SERSY'S** APARTMENT!

A **FEMALE!** I HOPE SHE **ISN'T** AS WEIRD AS HER NAME!

IKARIS AND MARGO ARE SOON AT THE APARTMENT DOOR -- BUT **INSTEAD** OF RINGING THE BELL, IKARIS SENDS A **THOUGHT WAVE** THROUGH THE DOOR.

H-HE'S GONE INTO SOME KIND OF **TRANCE**-- BUT **WHY**--?

THEN, A **WOMAN'S** VOICE REPLIES TO THE MENTAL PROBE...

COME IN, IKARIS, YOU **HANDSOME** FIEND! I HAVEN'T SEEN YOU IN **AGES!**

--ER, FOLLOW ME, MARGO -- AS YOU CAN HEAR, OUR FRIEND IS PRONE TO EXAGGERATE A BIT.

THE APARTMENT'S INTERIOR PRESENTS AN ALMOST ALIEN SIGHT--IT IS NO MORE STARTLING THAN THE GRACEFUL FEMALE FIGURE, SOARING THROUGH THE AIR--

HOW DO YOU LIKE IT, IKARIS? HAS MY DANCE FORM IMPROVED SINCE WE LAST MET?

FLATTERER! YOU'RE AFRAID THAT I'LL TURN YOU INTO A PIG! BUT I'M TOO FOND OF YOU TO DO THAT!

YOU ARE AS YOU'VE ALWAYS BEEN, SERSY! BEAUTIFUL--CHARMING--INSPIRING TO WATCH! TO SAY MORE WOULD EXHAUST THE ADJECTIVES IN A THOUSAND LANGUAGES...

SHE'S AN ETERNAL! IT SEEMS THEY TURN UP IN THE MOST UNEXPECTED PLACES!

REMEMBER THE GREECE OF OLD, IKARIS?--THE PARTIES--THE MUSIC--?

SERSY, *PLEASE*, BE SERIOUS. TIMES HAVE CHANGED--THE *DANGERS* HAVE CHANGED!

SO, YOU'VE BROUGHT THIS GIRL TO ME--TO PLACE HER UNDER *MY* PROTECTION...

I CAN *READ* YOUR THOUGHTS, IKARIS!

I'VE BEEN TO THE INCA RUINS IN THE ANDES, SERSY--*THE SPACE GODS HAVE RETURNED!*

THE SITUATION FOR THIS WORLD IS GRAVE! ALL *HUMANITY* WILL SOON BE AWARE OF IT! AND THE *DEVIANTS* ARE ALREADY MAKING A MOVE TOWARDS--*CONFLICT!!*

HOW *TRUE* TO THEIR NATURE! THIS IS *BAD* NEWS...

THAT'S WHY YOU'VE COME *HERE*... THE DEVIANTS HAVE CHOSEN NEW YORK FOR THEIR FIRST STRIKE!

IKARIS, LISTEN--

*I* SHALL BE HERE WHEN THE DEVIANTS ARRIVE... BUT FIRST, I MUST PLACE THIS HUMAN IN *YOUR* CHARGE!

HER NAME IS MARGO DAMIAN. FATE HAS *BOUND* US TO EACH OTHER... IN THE STRIFE TO COME, I SHALL DEPEND ON *YOU* FOR HER SAFETY--

SHE BEARS A GREAT *SADNESS* WITHIN HER. A *SUDDEN*, GRIEVOUS EXPERIENCE.

I-I'LL TRY TO BE A *COOPERA-TIVE* HOUSE GUEST, SERSY--

BE *GENTLE* WITH HER--MARGO IS IN NEED OF A KIND FRIEND.

I *MUST* LEAVE. THE DEVIANTS WILL BE UPON THIS CITY IN MOMENTS.

THE FATES BE WITH YOU, IKARIS--THE FATES BE WITH US *ALL!*

*GO, THEN!* GIVE THE ROTTEN LITTLE MONSTERS WHAT THEY *WELL* DESERVE!

BUT THE TERROR HAS ALREADY OVERTAKEN THE CITY--A FIERY BEAM HAS SWEPT LIKE A **SCYTHE** FROM THE SKY AND SET A BLOCK OF WAREHOUSES **AFLAME**...

**DEMONIC** FIGURES GARBED IN **SPACESUITS** DESCEND WITH THERMAL WEAPONS--CHAOS AND DESTRUCTION FOLLOW RAPIDLY!

IT IS THE SIGHT OF **ONE** AWESOME VISION, OUTLINED STARKLY AGAINST THE FLAMES, THAT **CURDLES** THE MARROW OF THE FLEEING CROWDS!

TREMBLE, HUMANS!

I'VE RETURNED FROM SPACE TO RECLAIM THIS DOMAIN!

EACH HUMAN EYE **SEES** AND BELIEVES! EACH HUMAN EAR **HEARS** THE VOICE--AND KNOWS IT BELONGS TO THE **KING OF INFAMY**!!

IT'S THE DEVIL HIMSELF!! THE DEVIL IS REAL!

I **NEVER** BELIEVED HE EXISTED UNTIL **NOW**!

HE'S COME BACK TO PLAGUE US! WHAT'LL WE DO?

THERE IS FEAR, AND THERE IS PANIC! YET IN MANY THERE IS ALSO **ANGER**!

HE DOESN'T FRIGHTEN ME! I SAY WE CAN LICK 'IM AND SEND HIM BACK INTO SPACE!

IF IT'S A **FIGHT** HE WANTS, THEN HE'LL **GET** ONE!

EVEN AS IKARIS HASTENS TO THE SCENE, **THE STAGE IS SET FOR A WAR THAT WILL SWEEP THE WORLD!**

**NEXT ISSUE:**

**ETERNAL VERSUS DEVIANT!!!**

AND MORE OF THE GODS!

THE MOST SPECTACULAR BATTLE EVER FOUGHT IN A **MARVEL** COMIC!

-READ-

# NIGHT OF THE DEMONS!

THE ETERNALS

# MARVEL COMICS GROUP™

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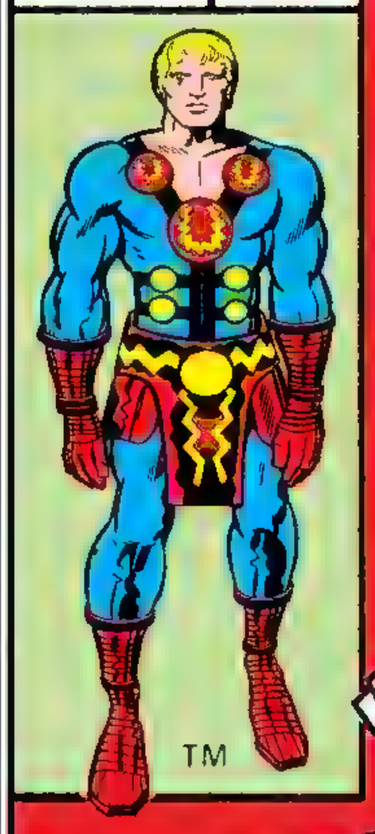

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## WHEN GODS WALK THE EARTH!

# THE ETERNALS™

## "NIGHT OF THE DEMONS!"

CAN EVEN THE COMBINED MIGHT OF *IKARUS* AND *SERSI* SAVE NEW YORK FROM THE MOST INCREDIBLE *INVASION* OF ALL?!

# Stan Lee PRESENTS: THE ETERNALS!™

A LONE FIGURE TAKES FLIGHT ACROSS THE CONCRETE CANYONS OF NEW YORK CITY... IT IS NIGHT, AND THE WATERFRONT STREETS ARE INFERNOS OF LEAPING FLAME. CRIES OF "DEVILS" AND "DEMONS" ECHO WITH FRIGHTENING EFFECT AND SCATTER THE FAINT-HEARTED WITNESSES FROM THE SCENE, BUT THE MAN WHO LEVITATES WITH BLINDING SPEED, KNOWS THAT THE TRUTH IS FAR MORE TERRIFYING! HE IS IKARIS OF THE ETERNALS-- AND TONIGHT IS--

## THE NIGHT OF THE DEMONS!

EDITED, WRITTEN, AND DRAWN BY--
JACK KIRBY
INKED BY JOHN VERPOORTEN

THOSE POOR HUMANS BELOW-- THEY SHOUT IN SUPERSTITIOUS FEAR!!

BUT THEY ARE UNAWARE THAT THEIR CITY IS UNDER ATTACK BY DEVIANTS, THE VERY SPECIES RESPONSIBLE FOR THE DEVIL-MYTHS!

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JV365

STRANGE EVENTS HAVE EXPOSED A STARTLING FACT, KEPT ALIVE THROUGH THE CENTURIES ONLY BY MYTH AND SUPERSTITION--MAN IS **NOT** ALONE ON THE EVOLUTIONARY CHAIN!! HE HAS SHARED THE PLANET WITH **TWO** SPECIES **UNKNOWN** TO HIM! NOW, IN A SUDDEN BURST OF VIOLENCE, THE **DEVIANTS** HAVE RISEN FROM THEIR DOMAIN BENEATH THE SEA TO CHALLENGE ALL **HUMANITY!!** BUT MANKIND HAS UNEXPECTED ALLIES--THE **ETERNALS!**

LOOK TO YOUR WEAPONS! IT'S IKARIS OF THE ETERNALS! HE MUST BE KEPT FROM STALLING OUR ATTACK ON THIS CITY!

FOUL **DEVIANTS!** YOU'LL **REGRET** THIS NIGHT OF SAVAGERY!!

FLAME GUNS WON'T STOP A BLASTED ETERNAL! ALERT OUR LEADER! HE'LL HAVE AN ANSWER TO THIS **ENEMY** OF OUR KIND!!

ALERT **GREAT KRO!!**

THE EYES OF IKARIS **BLAZE** LIKE WHITE-HOT COALS...TWIN RAYS **LASH** OUT AT THE DEVIANTS!

SSKKSHHHH!

BLAAAAMM!

AAAA!!

**STOP HIM!** STOP HIM BEFORE HE **DESTROYS** US!

THIS WEAPON **CAN'T** KILL AN ETERNAL--BUT IT CAN **BLANK** HIM OUT!

A **SMALL MISSILE** STREAKS FROM THE STRANGE PISTOL AND FINDS ITS **TARGET!**

WUMM!

UGHH!

SOMETHING FIXES ITSELF TO THE **FOREHEAD** OF IKARIS AND FLARES UP WITH EXPLOSIVE ENERGY. IKARIS IS **STAGGERED** IN MID-FLIGHT...

ROOMMP!!

I-I'VE BEEN HIT BY A "**BRAIN MINE!**"

IKARIS FEELS HIMSELF **FALLING** AS **DARKNESS** CLOSES ON HIS MIND...HE SEIZES A BUILDING LEDGE AND **DESPERATELY** HANGS ON...

MUSTN'T PASS-OUT-- MUSTN'T--

EVEN AS OBLIVION CLAIMS HIM, IKARIS IS **PREVENTED** FROM FALLING BY THE SUDDEN SWOOP OF **STRONG,** DEMONIC HANDS...

**DON'T LET HIM SLIP!**

DON'T WORRY! THE FALL **WOULDN'T** HAVE KILLED HIM! HE'S AN ETERNAL, REMEMBER? **HE CAN'T DIE!**

HE'LL SOON WISH HE **COULD!**

**HA HA HA!** OUR LEADER, **KRO,** WILL SEE TO THAT!

SUDDENLY--!

TO YOUR TASKS! SUMMON A **MUTATE!** I WANT IKARIS **REMOVED!!**

Y-YES, GREAT KRO!!

HE SHALL NOT **SPOIL** THIS NIGHT FOR US...WE MUST **SCOURGE** THIS CITY OF THE HUMANS! WE MUST ROUSE THEIR FEARS AND WHIP THEM INTO **FURY!**

AT THAT MOMENT, A **WINGED**, MUTATED DEVIANT APPEARS, AND **SEIZES** THE LIMP BODY OF IKARIS!!

**WHERE** SHALL I TAKE HIM, GREAT KRO?

OUR **RAIDING VESSEL** WAITS OFF SHORE...THE OFFICER IN CHARGE WILL **KNOW** HOW TO **DISPOSE** OF HIM!

MEANWHILE, WE SHALL GIVE THESE HUMANS A GIFT OF THE **SAME** TERROR WHICH THEIR **ANCESTORS** RECEIVED FROM OUR KIND!

BECAUSE OF THE **ANCIENT** WARS, THE **"DEVIL-MYTHS"** ARE AMONG THE HUMANS--TO BECOME THE **FEARSOME** SUPERSTITIONS WHICH PLAGUE THEM TO THIS DAY!

NOW, WE SHALL **JUSTIFY** THOSE LEGENDS AND GIVE THESE HUMANS A TASTE OF THEIR **REALITY!**

AT **KRO'S COMMAND,** THE DEVIANTS SPREAD THEIR ATTACK TO THE **REST** OF THE CITY...

**LOOK!** THOSE **GIANT** FIREBALLS IN THE SKY--! THEY'RE GOING TO HIT IN THE **CENTER** OF **MANHATTAN!**

**JUMPING JUPITER!**

THE FIREBALLS **STRIKE!** PEOPLE FLEE! THEY STUMBLE! THEY FALL! CRIES OF **TERROR** FILL THE NIGHT AIR, AND SIGNAL THE BEGINNING OF AN **ORDEAL** THAT WILL **SHAKE** THE MODERN MIND...

**RUN! RUN!** THE DEVILS ARE **EVERYWHERE!**

**HELP! HELP!**

KRO'S **NEXT** MOVE IS TO ADD **VIOLENCE** TO PANIC! HE SENDS FORTH HIS **MUTATES** IN A WIDE-SPREAD ATTACK AGAINST **ALL RESISTANCE!**

THE HUMANS ARE RALLYING THEIR **POLICE FORCE!** HIT THEM **HARD!**

SOMEONE, GET TO THE **RADIO!** I NEED **MORE MEN!**

**EVERY STREET** SEEMS TO SWARM WITH EVIL RAVAGERS! THEY **SMASH** STORE WINDOWS AND STREW DEBRIS!!

**HAHAHAHA!! FLEE, HUMANS!! YOUR DOWNFALL IS NEAR!!**

JELLO

MEANWHILE, IN A MANHATTAN APARTMENT, TWO WOMEN WATCH THE **PROGRESS** OF THE **BIZARRE** EVENTS WHICH ARE OVERTAKING THE **ENTIRE CITY**...

THERE'S **NO** CAUSE FOR ALARM, FOLKS! BUT, ALL CITIZENS ARE ADVISED TO **STAY** IN THEIR HOMES! ALL **LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES ARE ON THE JOB!!**

THINGS SEEM TO BE **WORSENING!** AND IKARIS IS SOMEWHERE OUT IN THAT MESS! I HOPE THAT HE **ISN'T--**

I SENSE THAT IKARIS HAS BEEN **TAKEN,** MARGO... BUT **NEVER FEAR.** HE IS AN ETERNAL! THEY **CAN'T** KILL HIM!

**ETERNALS! DEVIANTS!** WHO'D HAVE DREAMED THAT YOUR RACES EXISTED! FOR **CENTURIES** YOUR TWO SPECIES HAVE KEPT TO THEIR OWN DOMAINS... AND NOW THAT YOU'VE **REVEALED** YOURSELVES, THE WORLD SEEMS TO HAVE **GONE MAD!**

IT WAS BOUND TO HAPPEN... THE **SPACE GODS** HAVE COME BACK!--AND A **NEW** CHAPTER SHALL BE WRITTEN IN **EARTH'S HISTORY!**

I **SAW** THE GODS LAND, **SERSI!** I WAS THERE, WITH MY **FATHER** AND IKARIS, WHEN THEIR SHIP TOUCHED DOWN... I-IT WAS HUGE! **FRIGHTENING!**

IKARIS SAID THAT IT WAS **THEIR** EXPERIMENTS ON PREHISTORIC APES THAT PRODUCED US ALL--THE HUMANS, THE ETERNALS AND THE DEVIANTS!

YES, BUT WE **DO** HAVE OUR **DIFFERENCES,** MY DEAR...

I KNOW, SERSI...YOU ETERNALS ARE ***IMMORTAL!***

LIVING FOR ***CENTURIES*** CAN STORE A VERITABLE ***MAZE*** OF HAPPENINGS IN ONE'S MEMORY...

"I CAN STILL RECALL MY ***VILLA*** ON ONE OF THE ANCIENT GREEK ISLANDS, WHERE I WAS VISITED BY A SAILOR NAMED ***ULYSSES,*** AND HIS ***RAVENOUS*** CREW OF SLOBS..."

YOU'D THINK THEY'D ***NEVER*** SEEN A SPOON OR A FORK--AND THE ***SOUNDS*** THEY MADE WHEN THEY FILLED THEIR BELLIES WITH FOOD--***UGH!!***

***CIRCE*** OF THE LEGENDS! Y-YOU'RE ***THAT*** CIRCE!!

"THE GREEK STORYTELLERS NEVER ***COULD*** SPELL MY NAME RIGHT! HOWEVER, I ***DID*** CHANGE THOSE BOORS INTO ***PIGS!***"

***OINK! OINK!***

WE ETERNALS ARE ***NOTORIOUS*** FOR PLAYING TRICKS WITH THE ATOM. WHEN I TURNED THEM INTO ***HUMANS*** ONCE AGAIN, THOSE DING-DONGS TOOK OFF LIKE ***MISSILES*** FOR PARTS UNKNOWN...

"I ALSO HAD LOADS OF ***FUN*** CONFOUNDING ***MERLIN*** AT KING ARTHUR'S COURT...HE DIDN'T REALLY HAVE MUCH TALENT UNTIL I SHOWED HIM A FEW SIMPLE ***SHOW-STOPPERS...***"

THIS CAN ONLY BE ***WITCHERY!***

DON'T BE ***JEALOUS,*** OLD SOAK!

SERSI'S REMINISCENCES ARE **CUT SHORT** AS **GREAT** FLASHES **ILLUMINATE** THE CITY SKYLINE.

THE DEVIANTS DRAW **CLOSER!** YOU HUMANS WILL NEED YOUR **NATIONAL GUARD** TO HOLD THEM!

I-I'M **FRIGHTENED,** SERSI!

EVERY HUMAN WILL **FEAR** THEM TONIGHT! THEY'LL TALK ABOUT THE MONSTERS IN **SPACE SUITS,** AND MUSTER THEIR MILITARY MIGHT FOR **ACTION!**

BY **MORNING.** THE SKIES WILL BE **FILLED** WITH PLANES SEARCHING FOR THE **SPACESHIP!**

I SEE IT **ALL** NOW! INSTEAD OF DEVIANTS, THOSE PLANES WILL DISCOVER THE **SPACE GODS!!**

**THE DEVIANTS PLAN TO INVOLVE HUMANITY IN A WAR AGAINST THE SPACE GODS!**

SUDDENLY--AT THE WINDOW--!

**SERSI! LOOK OUT!**--WHAT IS THAT **HORRIBLE** THING!

**RRRRRR!**

A DEVIANT **MUTATE!**

SERSI'S FINGERS **FLY** TO HER FOREHEAD. LIKE IKARIS AND **ALL** ETERNALS, SHE RELEASES THE **STRANGE FORCE** THAT GENERATES BEHIND HER EYES. IT **LANCES OUT** AT THE **SINISTER** LIFE FORM!

THIS TREATMENT SHOULD GIVE HIM A PROPER **JOLT!**

SSSSS

THEN--!!

**WAM!**

LET'S GET **OUT** OF HERE, SERSI! THERE MAY BE **MORE** OF THEM!

THERE **ARE** MORE! NOW DO AS I TELL YOU. STAND **BEHIND ME** AND, NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS, REMAIN AS **CALM** AS YOU CAN!

*MARGO DOES AS SHE IS **TOLD**-- AND NONE TOO SOON...*

THERE'S SOMEONE **OUT THERE** WITH SOME SORT OF **GUN!**

OUR VISITOR HAS A **"FLAMER"!** A FAVORITE WEAPON OF THE **DEVIANTS!**

*THE WEAPON EMITS A **STREAM OF FIRE!** BUT AT A GESTURE FROM SERSI, THE SEARING FLAME DIVIDES IN **TWO** AND SKIRTS **PAST** ITS INTENDED VICTIMS.*

**SERSI!--** **SERSI--!**

**DON'T MOVE,** GIRL... **I'LL** DEAL WITH THESE LITTLE KILLERS--

ONLY AN **ETERNAL** IS CAPABLE OF THIS TRICKERY!!

OF COURSE! IT'S **SERSI OF THE OLYMPIC MOUNTAINS!**

WHEN **WE** GET THROUGH WITH HER, SHE'LL WISH SHE'D **STAYED** ON HER MOUNTAIN TOP!

*THE DEADLY DEVIANTS MOVE IN **CAUTIOUSLY.** BUT, NEVERTHELESS, THEY ARE **DETERMINED** TO **IMMOBILIZE AN ANCIENT ENEMY...***

YOU'VE CHOSEN THE **WRONG MOMENT** TO DISPORT YOURSELF IN THIS CITY, SERSI!

WE'VE TAKEN **IKARIS!** AND, NOW--

**CAREFUL!** SHE'S UP TO SOMETHING!

*IN AN INSTANT, A SUDDEN BURST OF ENERGY **ENGULFS** THE STARTLED TRIO...*

**TTZZZSSHH!**

LIZARDS, YOU ARE...AND LIZARDS SHALL YOU REMAIN!

SSSSSSS!!

SSSSSSS!

OH, SERSI! I-IT'S SIMPLY HORRIBLE! W-WILL THEY ALWAYS B-BE THIS WAY?

AS LONG AS I WISH IT! BESIDES, I SOMEHOW THINK I'VE IMPROVED THEIR IMAGE!!

SERSI THEN TURNS TO FACE A WALL MIRROR...

I DETEST AID. BUT I MUST BRING THESE INTRUSIONS TO AN END.

WH-WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO?

SERSI GRACEFULLY MOVES HER HANDS BEFORE THE MIRROR'S SURFACE...THEN, ITS GLOSSY REFLECTIONS BECOME OBSCURED BY SWIRLING VAPORS...

THIS IS A SPECIAL MIRROR, MARGO. CALL IT A COMMUNICATION DEVICE, IF YOU WILL. IT REACTS TO THOUGHT WAVES!!

WHEN THE VAPORS CLEAR, THE MIRROR REFLECTS A STRANGE CITY, BUILT UPON A MOUNTAIN TOP...

W-WHAT A BEAUTIFUL SIGHT! D-DOES THIS PLACE ACTUALLY EXIST?

IT IS THE CITY OF THE ETERNALS, CAROL... IT IS MY CITY...I MUST REACH MY FRIENDS THERE!!

MEANWHILE, **BENEATH** THE WATERS OF NEW YORK HARBOR, A DEVIANT **RAIDING CRAFT** LURKS IN HIDING...

**HURRY,** FOOLS! WE HAVEN'T GOT **ALL NIGHT!**

IKARIS HAS BEEN PLACED IN THE **CAPSULE,** SIRE!

PREPARE A TUBE FOR CAPSULE **EJECTION!**

IT IS A **RARE** PLEASURE TO DISPATCH AN **ETERNAL!** IKARIS WILL THWART US **NO LONGER.**

THAT **"BRAIN MINE"** ON HIS FOREHEAD WILL KEEP HIM **HELPLESS** AS LONG AS IT'S **ACTIVE...**

IT CAN OPERATE FOR AN **ETERNITY!** IKARIS SHOULD SLEEP FOR **MILLENIUMS!**

**FAREWELL,** IKARIS! WE DEVIANTS SHALL **NOT** MISS YOU!

A MOMENT LATER, THE CAPSULE BEARING IKARIS IS SHUNTED TO AN **EJECTION TUBE...**

A LOUD HISS **EXPLODES** WITHIN THE TUBE...THE CAPSULE, RIDING ON A BLAST OF AIR, IS **HURLED** INTO THE COLD DEPTHS. IKARIS THE ETERNAL IS ON HIS WAY TO A SLEEP OF **CENTURIES...**

THE CAPSULE IMBEDS ITSELF IN **MUDDY SILT**... AND IKARIS, FOR ALL INTENTS, IS **LOST** TO THE WORLD...BUT HIS FATE IS **NOT** YET SEALED...THERE HAVE BEEN **WITNESSES** TO HIS MISFORTUNE...

THE WATCHERS ARE **FAR** FROM THE SCENE. THEIR MONITORS ARE DEEP IN THE **INCA RUINS** BEYOND THE ANDES MOUNTAINS...

**HOLD THAT IMAGE!** MARK THE **EXACT** LOCATION OF THE CAPSULE!

LOCATION CHECKED AND **MARKED!**

THAT' **FOOL,** IKARIS! HE WOULD TRY TO TAKE ON AN **ENTIRE FORCE** OF DEVIANTS! THAT'S WHAT HAPPENS TO **HEROES!**

WE CAN **RAISE** HIM! A SIMPLE **FORCE** BEAM CAN DO IT!

IT KNOWS **NO** DISTANCE! YOUR FRIEND CAN BE REACHED IN SECONDS AND **RELEASED,** O LORD OF FLIGHT!

NO! LET HIM **STEW** A LITTLE! WE'LL RAISE HIM WHEN I'M **READY** TO GIVE THE ORDER!

THE DEVIANTS ARE OUR **PRIME** CONCERN. THEY'RE STIRRING UP A **HORNET'S NEST** OF TROUBLE THAT WILL DESCEND UPON **OUR** HEADS!

AND HOW IS OUR **HUMAN** GUEST FROM THE OUTSIDE WORLD? DO YOU FIND YOUR WORK INTERESTING, **DOCTOR DAMIAN?**

WITH **YOUR** HELP, I'VE DECIPHERED THESE ANCIENT INCAN TABLETS, **AJAK!** THEY TELL AN **INCREDIBLE STORY!**

YES, IT'S ALL THERE...THE STORY OF THE ***SPACE GODS*** AND THEIR ALLIANCE WITH THE INCA PEOPLE. I, AN ***ETERNAL***, WAS THERE...I SAW IT ALL HAPPEN...AND BECAME A ***PART*** OF THAT MONUMENTAL EVENT...

YES, I KNOW. THE INCAS ***ADOPTED*** YOU INTO THEIR SOCIETY...

THEY CALLED ME ***TECUMOTZIN,*** LORD OF FLIGHT! I TRAINED ***INCA CREWS*** TO SERVICE THE ***SPACESHIPS*** OF THE GODS...

WHEN THE GODS ***LEFT*** EARTH, IN THOSE ANCIENT TIMES, MY CREW AND I WERE ***STORED*** IN A RESURRECTION TOMB, TO AWAIT THE ***NEXT*** ARRIVAL OF THE CELESTIALS!

NOW, THE CELESTIALS ARE ***BACK!*** --AND ***I*** AM BACK--TO DO MY JOB IN THIS ***NEW*** AGE OF THEIR RETURN!

THERE'S ***TROUBLE!*** I CAN SENSE IT IN YOUR MANNER, AJAK!

***W-WHAT'S WRONG?***

I-IT'S THAT RACE OF ***DEVIANTS,*** ISN'T IT! THEY'VE SURFACED FROM THEIR ***HIDDEN*** CITIES! THAT'S IT-- ***ISN'T IT!***

IF YOU MUST KNOW, THEY'RE ***ATTACK-ING*** NEW YORK CITY AT THIS VERY MOMENT!

***TELL ME, AJAK! TELL ME!***

***GOOD LORD!*** THEY'LL START ANOTHER ***WORLD WAR!*** ALL OF MANKIND WILL BE ***MOBILIZING*** SOON!

***FEAR NOT,*** DAMIAN...I CAN TELL YOU THAT SHE'S ***SAFE,*** FOR THE PRESENT...

M-MY DAUGHTER, ***MARGO,*** IS OUT THERE! WHAT WILL ***HAPPEN*** TO HER!?

IT IS WHEN THE HOLOCAUST SPREADS TO ***THIS REGION,*** THAT THE TIME TO ***FEAR*** WILL COME...

YOUR HUMANS, AT ***FULL FURY,*** WILL SWARM ABOUT THIS PLACE! AND, YOU ***KNOW*** WHAT THEY SHALL FIND!

***LOOK*** UP THERE, DAMIAN! CAN YOU IMAGINE THEIR REACTION TO ***THAT*** SIGHT?

THERE IS A LARGE OPENING IN THE **ROOF** OF THE CHAMBER... BEYOND IT, THE SKY IS BLOTTED OUT BY A **GREAT** SHADOW. IT MOVES... DRAWS CLOSE... AND RESOLVES ITSELF INTO A REALITY OF **STAGGERING IMPORT!!**

**BEHOLD!** IT'S ONE OF THE CELESTIAL HOST... TO MERELY **SEE** HIM IS TO MARVEL AT THE **WONDERS** THAT LIE AMONG THE STARS!

THEY FIRST LANDED ON EARTH **BEFORE** THE DAWN OF MAN--TO **RETURN** TIME AND AGAIN TO **FULFILL** THEIR MISSION...

T-THEY'RE SO **HUGE** AND ENIGMATIC! I-I FEEL LIKE AN **ANT** IN THEIR PATH! I-IT'S A **TERRIBLE** BLOW TO ONE'S EGO, TO WORK IN THEIR PRESENCE...

YOUR HUMAN BRETHREN MAY **NOT SETTLE** FOR HUMILITY, DAMIAN! THEY **WON'T** LIKE BEING SECOND BEST! **MANKIND HAS CHALLENGED THE GODS BEFORE!**

DOCTOR DAMIAN INWARDLY **CRINGES** BEFORE THIS TRUTH... HE KNOWS THAT MAN WILL ATTACK AND KILL **ANYTHING** HE FEARS. HE REALIZES, IN **DESPAIR,** WHAT MANKIND WILL DO WHEN IT COMES FACE TO FACE WITH THE **CELESTIALS...**

I KNOW WHAT YOU'RE THINKING, DOCTOR! **WHAT WILL THE HUMANS DO WHEN THEY SEE HIM!?**

# ARISHEM.

LEADER OF THE FOURTH **HOST**, STANDS LIKE A **MOUNTAIN** ABOVE THE INCA RUINS...

HIS FACE IS HIDDEN. BUT, HIS EYES CAN SEE **EVERY-THING** THAT LIVES IN THIS WORLD...THEY ARE THE EYES OF A **JUDGE**...EVEN AS HIS HANDS ARE THOSE OF A **DESTROYER**...

WHEN MANKIND DIS-COVERS **ARISHEM**, IT WILL FIND ITSELF AGAINST OVERWHELMING, **TOTAL POWER!!**

**NEXT:** YOU WON'T BELIEVE IT--EVEN WHEN YOU SEE IT!!! **OLYMPIA!!**

THE ETERNALS

MARVEL COMICS GROUP™

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# WHEN GODS WALK THE EARTH!

# THE ETERNALS

THE FATE OF THE WORLD RESTS WITH THESE FOUR! WHO ARE THEY? WHAT ARE THEY?!

REVEALED THIS ISSUE! THE POWER OF OLYMPIA!

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# Stan Lee PRESENTS: THE ETERNALS!™

THE MIND-BLOWING SECRET IS OUT!! AN EXTRA-ORDINARY **DISCOVERY** HAS REVEALED WHAT HAS PUZZLED HUMANS THROUGHOUT THE AGES--THAT THERE IS AN ASTOUNDING TRUTH BEHIND **ALL** OF MYTHOLOGY!! BUT THIS HASN'T HAPPENED IN SLOW AND EASY STAGES! IF YOU THINK FUTURE SHOCK IS A PROBLEM, **TRY THIS STRANGE EXPERIENCE OF "PAST SHOCK!"** FOLLOW THE **ETERNALS** INTO--

# OLYMPIA!

MIRROR, MIRROR, ON THE WALL-- WHO'S THE OLDEST *JUVENILE* OF ALL?

THAT'S FUNKY **CORN**, SERSI! I HOPE YOU HAVE A **LESS WHIMSICAL** REASON FOR CONTACTING OLYMPIA...

JV 402

| CONCEIVED, WRITTEN and ILLUSTRATED BY | INKS AND LETTERING BY | COLORING BY | CONSULTING EDITOR |
|---|---|---|---|
| JACK KIRBY | MIKE ROYER | GLYNIS WEIN | ARCHIE GOODWIN |

Y-YOUR MIRROR, SERSI -- I-IT FUNCTIONS LIKE A *T.V. SET!*

YOU'RE *OVERSIMPLIFYING* THE FACTS, MY DEAR MARGO, BUT THE *ANALOGY* WILL DO.

AS YOU CAN SEE, MAKARRI, THERE IS A *HUMAN* WITH ME. SHE IS UNDER *MY* PROTECTION!

IF SHE REQUIRES PROTECTION, IT SHOULD BE FROM YOUR *HUMOR*, SERSI! NOW-- *WHAT IS IT THAT YOU WANT!?*

DID YOU CALL HIM *MAKARRI?* THAT NAME HAS A *FAMILIAR RING...*

WHY NOT? HIS MANIA FOR *FAST VEHICLES* HAS MADE THAT NAME NOTORIOUS -- ONLY YOU HUMANS HAVE CONTINUALLY MISPRONOUNCED IT.

OH, SHE CAN CALL ME *MERCURY.* WE *ETERNALS* HAVE LEARNED TO *LIVE* WITH THE SPEECH IMPEDIMENTS OF HUMANS...

HAVE WE ALSO COME TO *IGNORE* THE SAVAGERY OF THE *DEVIANTS?*

*THEY'RE BACK,* MAKARRI!! THEY'VE COME OUT OF HIDING!

LOOK OUTSIDE THIS WINDOW! NEW YORK CITY IS *AFLAME!!* IT'S BEEN SUBJECTED TO A SURPRISE ATTACK! *THE DEVIANTS ARE SWARMING EVERYWHERE!*

I KNOW YOU *WELL*, SERSI. MY GUESS IS THAT YOU'VE *BEATEN OFF* A FEW ALREADY!

T-THEY LOOK L-LIKE *D-DEVILS* AND *SCALY DEMONS!! UGH!!*

YOU *KNOW* HOW THAT RAT-PACK OPERATES, MAKARRI... THEY'RE USING *MUTATES* TO PANIC THE HUMANS!

NOW THAT THEY'VE *DISCOVERED* AN *ETERNAL* IN THIS TOWN, THEY'LL BE BACK HERE FOR *ANOTHER* TRY!

THAT'S WHY I'VE CON-TACTED OLYMPIA!

*SERSI! LOOK OUT!! BEHIND YOU--!!*

THE WARNING COMES *TOO LATE!* SERSI AND MARGO ARE *ROUGHLY* SEIZED BY THE INVADING MUTATES!

REMEMBER THE ETERNAL'S *EYES!* THEY CAN *DESTROY!*

*POW!*

SHE *CAN'T* USE HER POWERS WHILE SHE'S *SLEEPING!*

IN OLYMPIA, MAKARRI STARES AT A VIEWSCREEN IN ANGER AND FRUSTRATION, AS SERSI AND MARGO ARE CARRIED OFF!!

*SERSI! SERSI!*

SHE'S TALKED *ENOUGH,* FOUL ETERNAL!

*DEVIANT DOG!* YOU'LL *PAY* FOR THIS! YOU'LL SOON BE *BEGGING* FOR MERCY!!

THERE IS A *HARSH, DERISIVE LAUGH...* THEN, THE SCREEN BLANKS OUT!!

*UGLY FOOL! HE DEFIED ME!*

SOMETHING MUST BE *DONE* ABOUT THIS *AT ONCE!* BUT I CAN'T ACT WITHOUT APPROVAL OF THE *PRIME ONE!*

LEAVE IT TO SERSI TO BE IN THE *WRONG SPOT* AT THE *WRONG TIME!* I ONCE HAD TO YANK HER OUT OF *ANCIENT ROME* DURING NERO'S BIG BONFIRE!

MAKARRI WOULD GO INTO *SHOCK* IF HE HAD TO STAND *STILL!*

IT IS SAID THAT HE LEARNED TO RUN *BEFORE* HE COULD *WALK!*

OLYMPIA, CITY OF THE ETERNALS, RESTS ON A MOUNTAIN TOP, AN ENVIRONMENT WHICH THIS SPECIES *ADAPTED* TO IN AGES PAST. CUT OFF FROM THE SURFACE WORLD BELOW, THE ETERNALS HAVE SPENT THE AGES *DEVELOPING* THEIR *STRANGE POWERS*...

I'LL MAKE BETTER TIME IF I *LEVITATE!* THE PRIME ONE WILL *FLIP* WHEN HE HEARS ABOUT THE DEVIANTS!

IT GIVES ONE PAUSE TO SPECULATE IF MAKARRI EVER STOPS TO *DINE!!*

JOIN ME IN *MEDITATION*, MAKARRI! FLEETNESS IS *NOT* WISDOM!

IN THE *TEMPLE OF COMMAND*, MAKARRI APPROACHES THE DIGNIFIED AND EFFICIENT DISPENSER OF OLYMPIA'S GENERAL AFFAIRS...

*HO! DOMO!*

*DON'T SHOUT*, MAKARRI! YOU KNOW HOW *DISTURBING* THAT CAN BE!

WOULDN'T YOU SHOUT IF YOU'D JUST BEEN *WITNESS* TO THE ABDUCTION OF AN ETERNAL BY-- GET THIS -- *MUTATES!?!*

MUTATES? MUTATES? BUT *THEIR KIND* HASN'T BEEN ACTIVE FOR *AGES!*

WELL, THEY'RE ACTIVE *NOW!* BECAUSE THEIR MASTERS, THE *DEVIANTS*, ARE ACTIVE!!

*THE DEVIANTS HAVE COME OUT OF THEIR HOLE -- TO FIGHT!*

NONSENSE! IT *ISN'T POSSIBLE* -- NOT AFTER ALL THESE *MILLENIA!*

I *DEMAND* TO SEE THE GREAT ONE! *HE* WON'T TREAT THIS SO LIGHTLY!

IF I WERE YOU, I'D RETIRE SOMEWHERE AND DREAM UP A MORE *REALISTIC REASON* FOR RISKING THE GREAT ONE'S *WRATH!*

AS MAKARRI PRESSES FOR ACTION, THE CONCRETE CANYONS OF NEW YORK CITY BECOME FLAMING AVENUES OF TERROR...

HAHAHAH! FLEE, YOU CRAVEN, MORTAL RABBLE!

RUN! RUN! THE DEVIL'S COME BACK FROM SPACE WITH AN ARMY OF DEMONS!

SAVE US!

THE CRY OF "DEVILS FROM SPACE" RISES THROUGHOUT THE STRICKEN CITY! IN THIS FEARFUL MOMENT, HUMANS SEIZE QUICKLY UPON ANCIENT SUPERSTITIONS!!

RUN! HAHAHAH!

BUT, DESPITE THE CHAOS IN THE WAKE OF A SURPRISE INVASION, THE FORCES OF THE LAW HOLD THEIR GROUND AND FIGHT BACK WITH GRIM DETERMINATION...

POW! POW

KEEP FIRING! THOSE MONSTERS DON'T LIKE THE TASTE OF RESISTANCE!

THERE'S ANOTHER PACK! BLOW 'EM AWAY!!

THE TRUTH IS ALMOST AS FANTASTIC AS THE MYTH. SERSI AND MARGO DAMIAN ARE, AT THIS MOMENT, BROUGHT BEFORE THE ONE HUMANS HAVE IDENTIFIED AS SATAN HIMSELF!

WELCOME TO THE PARTY, FAIR ETERNAL.

Y-YOU SWINE!

W-WHO IS HE, SERSI? I-IS THIS REALLY SATAN?

CAREFUL, SERSI! ETERNALS MAY BE POWERFUL, AS WELL AS IMMORTAL, BUT I'VE HUMBLED THEM BEFORE!!

TURN ME LOOSE AND I'LL TELL THE HUMANS WHO YOU ARE! KRO, THE DEVIANT! KRO, THE FAKE!

SILENCE HER, GREAT KRO!

ANGERED BY SERSI'S TAUNTS, THE LEADER OF THE INVASION REACHES OUT, IN THE AGE-OLD MANNER OF THE BULLY!

ARE YOU MAD!!?? DON'T YOU REALIZE WHAT THIS MAY COST YOU??

I KNOW THAT YOU CAN RETALIATE, SERSI! BUT, YOU WON'T! NOT THIS TIME, FAIR ONE!

SUDDENLY, KRO'S EYES WIDEN IN ASTONISHMENT AND FEAR! HIS GAZE IS FIXED ON THE HAND WHICH CLASPS SERSI!

NO! NO! YOU FEMALE FIEND!! W-WHAT HAVE YOU DONE!?

MY HAND! YOU'VE CHANGED IT INTO A GNARLED AND TWISTED STUMP OF WOOD!

UNDO THIS BRAZEN DEED, YOU DEFIANT WENCH!! UNDO THIS ABOMINATION, I SAY!

IT LOOKS NO WORSE THAN YOUR FACE, KRO!

GIVE US THE COMMAND, KRO! WE'LL MAKE HER OBEY!!

YES! YES! GIVE US THE ORDER!

THAT WON'T BE NECESSARY! SERSI KNOWS THAT HER HUMAN COMPANION WILL DIE IF SHE DOESN'T OBEY!!

THAT'S RIGHT, SORCERESS!! DO AS YOU'RE TOLD -- OR SHE DIES!

ETERNALS ARE HONOR BOUND TO PROTECT THOSE IN THEIR CHARGE.

SERSI'S EYES BLAZE BRIGHTLY, EMITTING RAYS THAT FORCE A MOLECULAR CHANGE...

SHE'S DONE IT! MY HAND REGAINS ITS FORMER SHAPE!

I RECANT WITH GREAT RELUCTANCE, KRO! MISTREAT ME AGAIN AND I'LL FIX YOU FOR GOOD, ON MY NEXT TRY!

THERE WON'T BE A NEXT TIME, ETERNAL!

WE'LL MAKE CERTAIN OF THAT!

AND SO WE SHALL! SUMMON AN AIR SHUTTLE! HAVE BOTH FEMALES TAKEN TO OUR RAIDING VESSEL!

WE HAVE THE MEANS ABOARD TO KEEP THESE TWO IN A DOCILE STATE!

MOMENTS LATER, A SMALL AIRCRAFT LEAVES THE BELEAGUERED CITY WITH THE CAPTIVES...

GUARDS! KEEP YOUR GUNS ON THE PRISONERS!

THE AIR SHUTTLE GLIDES SILENTLY ACROSS THE NIGHT SKY. IT TAKES JUST MINUTES TO REACH THE WATERFRONT AREA AND CONTINUE TOWARD THE RIVER.

HAHAHAHAH! GREAT KRO HAS THOROUGHLY DECEIVED THOSE SHEEP-LIKE HUMANS INTO THINKING THAT OUR FORCES HAVE ATTACKED FROM SPACE!

THEY HAVE NO INKLING THAT, LIKE THE ETERNALS, WE DEVIANTS ARE ALSO NATIVE TO THIS WORLD!

DESCENT IS SUDDEN AND SWIFT! A STEEP DIVE SENDS THE CRAFT INTO CONTACT WITH THE COLD, DARK WATERS. IT SUBMERGES AND VANISHES FROM SIGHT!!

WE LIVE IN THE SEA, BELOW!! HAHAHAH!

SPLOSH

ONCE BENEATH THE WATER'S SURFACE, THE CRAFT CONVERTS TO SUBMARINE CAPABILITY, AND MAKES FOR THE *MOTHER* SHIP...

SHUTTLE TO RAIDER. OPEN YOUR *MAIN HATCH!* WE'RE BRINGING *GUESTS!*

BRING THEM IN! WE KNOW HOW TO *TAKE CARE* OF THEM!!

MEANWHILE, IN LOFTY OLYMPIA, A CONTEST OF A MORE ATHLETIC NATURE IS *MANIPULATED* FOR SKILL AND *SPORT*...

YOU'RE *FUMBLING* LIKE AN *AMATEUR* WITH THAT *REMOTE-CONTROL GUIDE*, FATHER! I'VE GOT YOUR *AUTO-BOXER* ON THE RUN!

*PROUD AND FOOLISH GIRL!* I'VE *LURED* YOUR FIGHTER INTO POSITION FOR A *WINNING* BLOW!

WHA—!??

*BAM!*

*CLANK!*

NOT SO, GREAT ONE! THE BOUT IS *MINE!*

MY AUTO-BOXER STANDS *VICTORIOUS*, FATHER! ADMIT THAT MY SKILL AT THIS GAME OUTSTRIPS YOUR *OWN!*

I'D HAVE WON, IF THIS *BUZZER* HADN'T BEEN DRIVING ME OUT OF MY WITS!!

BZZZZT! BZZZT!

*FIREBALLS AND COMETS, DOMO! WHAT KIND OF CALAMITY HAS SPARKED THIS CONFOUNDED BUZZING!?*

I-IT'S *MAKARRI*, GREAT ONE--! H-HE *WON'T LEAVE* UNTIL HE SEES YOU! I-I MUST RELY ON *YOUR* WISDOM IN THIS MATTER!

*SEND HIM IN!!*

FILL MY CUP, *THENA!* I CAN TOLERATE THAT RACING NUT ONCE I'M *AMPLY* FORTIFIED!

MAKARRI GREETS *MIGHTY ZURAS*, AND HAILS THE *PERFECTION* OF THENA-- THE MOST *FORTUNATE* OF DAUGHTERS!

*GLIB TONGUES* USUALLY MAKE *LARGE REQUESTS!!*

*DON'T SPARE ME*, MAKARRI! HAS THE MOON FALLEN INTO THE SUN? IS OLYMPIA *TOPPLING* FROM ITS MOUNTAIN CREST?

YOU STRIKE *CLOSE*, PRIME ETERNAL!! AN ANCIENT PLAGUE HAS *REAPPEARED*, TO SOW HAVOC IN THIS CENTURY!!

DON'T KEEP US *GUESSING!* IS IT ANIMAL, MINERAL, OR VEGETABLE?

THERE WAS A TIME WHEN THE SPECIES KNOWN AS *DEVIANTS* WERE *HARDLY* THE SUBJECTS FOR LIGHT BANTER!!

WELL, THEY'RE *BACK!* THEY'RE ON THE *OFFENSIVE!* AND-- *THEY'VE CAPTURED SERSI!*

A *MASSIVE SHADOW* STIRS UPON THE FAR WALL. IT FOLLOWS THE MOVEMENT OF A MOST *MAJESTIC* FORM--*ZURAS*, THE ELDEST OF ETERNALS, AND WIELDER OF A HUNDRED POTENT POWERS, *RISES* IN *ANGER!!*

*BLAST* THIS CENTURY OF WORLD WARS, MINI-WARS, AND GUERRILLA WARS! *ARE WE NOW TO REVIVE A COSMIC WAR!!?*

GIVE ME THE *DETAILS* OF THIS DEVELOPMENT, MAKARRI --AND *HEED!* BE FORTHRIGHT AND ACCURATE IN YOUR DESCRIPTION OF WHAT YOU'VE *SEEN!*

AND ABOVE ALL, *DON'T* ALLOW YOUR YOUTHFUL ENERGIES TO MOVE YOU TO OFFER *RASH PROPOSALS!!*

MAKARRI OBEDIENTLY AND CAREFULLY DESCRIBES THE INCIDENT AT THE VIEWSCREEN.

THE PICTURE IS *CLEAR* ENOUGH, MAKARRI! BUT *WHAT* HAS DRIVEN THE DEVIANTS TO TERRORIZE THE HUMANS?

THAT SHALL BE KNOWN TO US *SOON*, GREAT ONE. WE MUST FIRST CONSIDER *SERSI'S* FATE!

NEVER FEAR FOR *THAT* BUNDLE OF TROUBLE! PITY THE *DEVIANTS* WHO TOOK HER CAPTIVE!

ZURAS SUDDENLY *EXPLODES* WITH RAGE! HUGE BOLTS OF RAW ENERGY LEAP FROM HIS BODY!

ARE WE *NEVER* TO SPEND OUR DAYS IN PEACEFUL PURSUITS!? MUST WE REMAIN FOREVER *CHAINED* TO SAVAGE COUSINS WITH WHOM WE SHARE THIS WORLD?

KRAK!

*FATHER!* YOU'LL *RUIN* THE *FURNITURE!*

DON'T DIVERT ME WITH *TRIVIA*, THENA! YOUR TRUE THOUGHTS *CANNOT* BE *HIDDEN* FROM MIGHTY ZURAS!

THEN MIGHTY ZURAS KNOWS THAT THE DEVIANTS MUST BE TAUGHT TO *RESPECT* ETERNALS! YOU KNOW THAT *I* INTEND TO DO THE TEACHING!!

*WELL SAID*, THENA!

*GO, THEN* -- BOTH OF YOU! VENT YOUR AGGRESSIONS UPON THE DEVIANTS. THERE'S MORE TO DO HERE THAN JOIN IN SMALL ENCOUNTERS!!

YOU *HEARD* HIM! *WE LEAVE AT ONCE!*

Y-YOUR WISH I-IS MY COMMAND, THENA!

SOON AFTER...

IF YOU HAVE *NO QUALMS* ABOUT TRAVELLING AT THE *SPEED OF LIGHT*, THENA, THEN THIS CRAFT SHOULD PLEASE YOU!!

I HOPE THAT THIS IS ONE OF YOUR FASTER VEHICLES, MAKARRI! I DON'T LIKE TO WASTE TIME WHEN THERE'S ACTION INVOLVED!

THE DEVIANTS, AT THIS MOMENT, STILL ADVANCE IN FEARSOME RANKS! THEIR PATH IS STREWN WITH FLAMING DEBRIS, AND THE CRIES OF TERRIFIED HUMANS ECHO FROM EVERY DIRECTION!!

DON'T STOP, DEVIANTS! *PRESS ON!* WE MUST BURN THIS NIGHT INTO THE *MEMORIES* OF THE INHABITANTS!!

HAHAHAHAH! THEY WON'T FORGET THIS!

KRO IS WELL AWARE THAT AT SOME POINT THE HUMANS WILL OVERCOME THEIR FEAR AND WILL STRIKE BACK IN VENGEANCE!! THEY WILL SEEK AND FIND THE ENEMY HE IS *PLANTING* IN THEIR MINDS!!

COWER AND CRINGE AND CRAWL INTO YOUR HOLES, WORTHLESS HUMANS! WE'VE COME BACK FROM SPACE TO RECLAIM THE EARTH!

*WE* RULED HERE IN CENTURIES PAST! AND WHEN WE'RE THROUGH HERE, *WE SHALL BE THE MASTERS ONCE MORE!*

BUT, RESISTANCE AMONG THE HUMANS HAS *ALREADY* BEGUN TO TAKE HOLD...

WHO ARE *YOU*!?? *DISPERSE* YOUR MEN, YOU FOOL!

I'M POLICE INSPECTOR JAMES FISHER! *PUT DOWN YOUR WEAPONS!*

HOT BURSTS OF FLAME HISS BY FISHER, AS A WARNING TO STEP ASIDE!

YOU'RE *BRAVE*, HUMAN! BUT THE NEXT VOLLEY WILL *FINISH* YOU!

KILLING ME WILL GAIN YOU *NOTHING*!! YOUR BATTLE IS *LOST*!!

*HAHAHAH!* DO YOU THINK TO *DECEIVE* ME WITH *EMPTY THREATS*!?

WE'LL *CONTAIN* YOU AS LONG AS WE CAN! BUT THERE ARE *TROOPS* ON THEIR WAY THIS MOMENT WHO WILL DO A *REAL* JOB ON YOU!

YOU CAN'T REASON WITH SPACE DEVILS, INSPECTOR! JUST BACK OFF SO WE CAN *BLAST* 'EM!

*WE'LL* GIVE 'EM THE FIGHT THEY'RE *LOOKING* FOR!!

SUDDENLY, FROM THE NIGHT SKY ABOVE, A SHAFT OF *BLAZING ENERGY HURTLES* INTO THE SHATTERED STREETS!

IT PLUMMETS INTO A GROUP OF DEVIANTS AND *EXPLODES* IN THEIR MIDST!!

BLAAMM!!

AAARR!

ZOMP!!

A SUCCESSION OF MUTATES ARE *STRUCK* IN FLIGHT! THEY FIND THEMSELVES *ABLAZE* AND *CRIPPLED*...

Y-Y-YAAAA!

THEN, THE UNSEEN ATTACKER SOARS INTO SIGHT!

HEAD FOR THAT BUILDING, MAKARRI! THERE'S A *PACK* OF *DEVIANTS* ON THE ROOF!

*GOOD FLYING!* I WAS ABLE TO GET A *FINE* SHOT AT THEM! THE DOGS *CAN'T HANDLE* COLD ENERGY!

WAM!

THIS TOWN IS A FLAMING *MESS!!* FINDING SERSI *WON'T* BE AN *EASY TASK!!*

WHEN WE FIND KRO, THE DEVIANT LEADER, WE'LL FIND SERSI!

POW!

SUDDENLY--!!

I'LL *RID* YOU OF THAT WEAPON, *SHE-WOLF!*

PLOK!

KEEP THIS CRAFT *STEADY*, MAKARRI! WE'RE UNDER *ATTACK!!*

THENA ACTS WITH THE SPEED OF A *POLISHED WARRIOR!* SHE *AVOIDS A DEATH-BLOW* AND CLOSES WITH THE ENEMY!

FLY ALONG THE BUILDINGS, MAKARRI! *I'LL* TAKE CARE OF THIS MUTATE *MICROBE!*

BOASTFUL ETERNAL! *RELEASE* THAT BAR-- OR *I'LL--!*

*SLAAM!!*

DONE LIKE A *TRUE* DAUGHTER OF ZURAS!! YOU'RE A *FORMIDABLE OPPONENT,* THENA!

AT THAT MOMENT, A *SWARM* OF MUTATES BESETS THE SMALL VESSEL AND ATTEMPTS TO *OVER-WHELM* IT WITH NUMBERS!

*GATHER, MUTATES!* PULL DOWN THIS *IMPUDENT* PAIR OF ETERNALS!

THE CRAFT HAS *STOPPED!* IT CAN GO *NO FURTHER* UNDER THIS *PRESSURE!*

*SMASH IT! TEAR IT APART!*

THE ETERNALS *REMAIN COOL* IN THIS DESPERATE SITUATION! THENA HOLDS OFF THE ATTACKERS AS MAKARRI *WRESTLES* WITH THE CRAFT'S CONTROLS...

*DO* SOMETHING, MAKARRI! BEFORE WE'RE *SWAMPED!*

I'VE STILL GOT AN ACE CARD!

PREPARE FOR A *SHARP DROP* IN TEMPERATURE, THENA! I'M GOING TO PUT THIS GAGGLE OF DEMONS ON *ICE!!*

THE CHANGE IS COMING-- *NOW!!*

THERE IS A SUDDEN FLASH OF *FRIGID BRIGHTNESS!* A RUSH OF COLD WIND SWEEPS ACROSS THE WHITE, JAGGED BALL OF FROST WHICH HAS ENGULFED THE CRAFT AND ITS LIVING CARGO...

BY ALL THE *FLAMING PITS OF LEMURIA!* THE ETERNALS HAVE *TRICKED* US!

THEN, THE *ICE-ENCRUSTED* SHAPES OF MUTATES BEGIN TO *TUMBLE* FROM THE SKY...

THE FROST *RECEDES* FROM THE SURFACE OF THE CRAFT, AS IT LEAPS ONCE MORE INTO MOTION...

BRRRRRRR!! IT TOOK *INTENSE CONCENTRATION* TO *ENDURE* THAT BIT OF WHIMSY!

IT'S NOTHING I'D LIKE TO REPEAT, BUT IT DID GET US *FREE* OF THOSE *UGLY BOORS!*

*LOOK,* MAKARRI! THERE'S SOME SORT OF *CONFRONTATION* TAKING PLACE IN THAT WIDE STREET-- BETWEEN DEVIANTS AND LAW GUARDIANS!!

I-I CAN MAKE OUT THE DEVIANT'S *LEADER!* YES, IT'S *KRO!!* I'D KNOW HIM ANYWHERE!

HE'LL GIVE US A *FIGHT!* BUT, HE CAN ALSO GIVE US THE *ANSWERS* WE SEEK!!

MEANWHILE, IN THE PENTAGON...

THESE HAVE JUST COME IN, GENERAL! THEY'RE-- *UNBELIEVABLE! ASTOUNDING--!*

BUT *FACT,* EH, COLONEL? DON'T LOOK SO GRIM. LET ME HAVE THOSE PHOTOS!

*THAT* STILL WAS TAKEN BY SATELLITE AT A HEIGHT OF A THOUSAND MILES. IT'S *UNDOUBTEDLY* AN *ALIEN VESSEL* IN *FIXED ORBIT!*

LOOK AT THE *SIZE* OF IT, SIR! I-IT'S *IMMENSE!*

COULD BE THE MOTHER SHIP OF THOSE SO-CALLED *"SPACE-DEVILS"* AT THE BOTTOM OF THAT TROUBLE IN *NEW YORK CITY!*

*THIS* PHOTO WAS TAKEN BY A U-2 JET ON A SWEEP ACROSS THE ANDES MOUNTAINS! THAT STRUCTURE WAS NEVER SEEN BEFORE, UNTIL YESTERDAY.

THE SPACE DEVILS' *EARTH BASE--* MMMM-- PERHAPS--!

THE MOST *FRIGHTENING* OF THE LOT IS THIS *ONE,* SIR. IT WAS TAKEN DURING A LOW-LEVEL DROP TO A HEIGHT OF TWO THOUSAND FEET!!

THAT *MAN-LIKE* FIGURE WAS SEEN INSIDE THE TRANSPARENT STRUCTURE! *HE'S A VERITABLE GIANT!! --A GIANT!!*

OUR PLANES ARE *STILL* BUSY IN THAT AREA. WE SHOULD KNOW *MORE* SOON!

GOOD LORD!

*SPACE DEVILS--ALIEN GIANTS!!* WHAT CAN IT ALL MEAN, SIR?

IT *MAY* ADD UP TO THE DAMNDEST *WAR* WE'RE EVER FOUGHT!

***WHAT THIS ADDS UP TO IS THE MOST EXCITING STORY EVER TOLD IN COMICS!!***

*DON'T MISS THE NEXT MIND-BOGGLING ISSUE!!*

**GODS AND MEN AT CITY COLLEGE!**

THE ETERNALS

# MARVEL COMICS GROUP™

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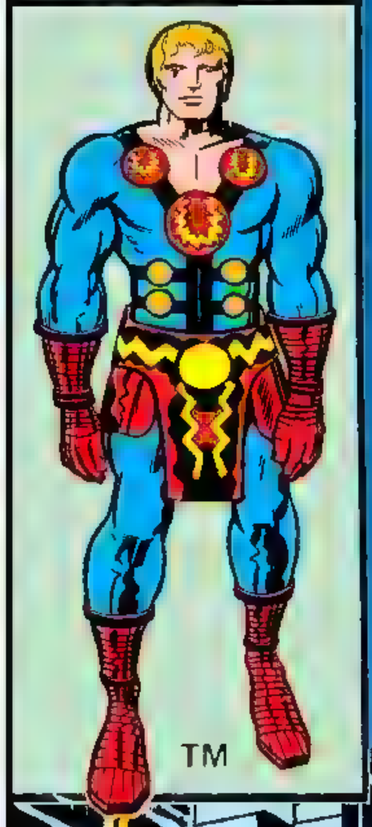

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## WHEN GODS WALK THE EARTH!

# THE ETERNALS™

THEY CAME TO PREVENT A HOLOCAUST -- AND STAYED TO CREATE CHAOS!

## GODS AND MEN AT CITY COLLEGE!

# Stan Lee PRESENTS: THE ETERNALS!™

**THE GODS ARE BACK--!!** A **MONUMENTAL EVENT** WHICH **MUST AFFECT** THE LIVES OF ALL HUMANS!! WITH SUDDEN REVELATION, BATHED IN FLAME AND FILLED WITH FURY, **DEVILS** AND **DEMONS** HAVE INVADED NEW YORK CITY!! **LIVING LEGENDS** HAVE JOINED THE FRAY WHILE FRIGHTENED HUMANS WAIT FOR ANSWERS!!! ANSWERS KNOWN ONLY TO -- **THE ETERNALS!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!**

# GODS AND MEN AT CITY COLLEGE!

MAKE YOUR RUN, **MAKARRI!** THERE'S A GROUP OF THE ENEMY DIRECTLY BELOW US AND I WANT A **WELL-PLACED** THROW!

**YOU SHALL HAVE IT, THENA!** OUR COMBINED SKILLS HAVE WROUGHT HAVOC WITH THE **DEVIANTS** THIS NIGHT!!

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THE ENERGY-SPEAR FLASHES WITH UNERRING ACCURACY AT THE DEVIANTS BELOW! AS IT NEARS THE STARTLED GROUP, IT BLAZES WITH CRACKLING LIGHT WHICH ENSARES ITS TARGETS!!

YOU SAVAGES WILL REGRET THIS ATTACK ON THE HUMANS!

NEVER MIND THEM! BREAK OUT OF THIS ENERGY-RING! ALL OF YOU!

THEIR CRAFT IS TOO SWIFT! WE CAN'T BRING IT DOWN!

CURSED ETERNALS!

I-IT'S TOO BRIGHT! I-I CAN'T SEE!

BLAST THE ETERNALS AND THEIR MEDDLING! I-I CAN'T FIND MY WAY OUT OF THIS FOOLS-FIRE!

AAAAA!! THE ENERGY SINGES AND SCORCHES!!

SUDDENLY, ALL THOSE CLOSE TO THE IMBEDDED WEAPON ARE **SWEPT** INTO THE AIR!!

I-I'VE BECOME **WEIGHTLESS!!** I'M LEAVING THE GROUND!!

IT'S AN **ANTI-GRAVITY** SPEAR! WE **CAN'T RESIST** ITS POWER!

THERE'S NO TELLING **WHERE** OUR FLIGHT WILL TAKE US!

SEVERED FROM THE PULL OF THE PLANET, THE UNLUCKY DEVIANTS SPEED LIKE BULLETS ACROSS THE CITY UNTIL THEIR MAD FLIGHTS ARE BROKEN BY OBSTACLES IN THEIR PATH!!!

SLAM!

UGH-!

TO THESE CAREENING INVADERS, THE CITY PROVIDES NUMEROUS WALLS FOR SMASH-UPS!!!

AAAA!!!

UGH!!

KRASH!!

EVERYWHERE, THROUGHOUT THE CITY, THE CRIES OF HIS **STRICKEN** FOLLOWERS **REACH OUT** TO A LEADER **DEAF** TO THEIR PLEAS...

**SAVE US, GREAT KRO!** WE CANNOT MOVE OR FIGHT!!

SEND US AID!!

THE DEVIANTS, AS A SPECIES, ARE **NOT** KNOWN FOR THEIR BROTHERLY CONCERN. KRO MAKES NO FURTHER MOVE TO REGROUP HIS FORCES. HIS MIND IS **ABSORBED** WITH THE ATTACKING ETERNALS.

THIS DUDE'S LOST SOME **FIREPOWER** INSPECTOR!! WE'RE READY TO **TAKE** HIM!

**HAHAHAHAH!** TAKE THE **DEVIL?** **BEWARE,** MORTAL!!

I'VE HAD **ENOUGH** OF YOUR "DEVIL AND MORTAL" TALK!

IF YOU'RE THE DEVIL, YOU WON'T BE BOTHERED BY A FEW PUNCTURES FROM *HIGH-POWERED AMMO*... IF YOU'RE A *PHONY*, I'D ADVISE YOU TO GIVE YOURSELF UP!

NOW MAKE YOUR CHOICE!

*CEASE ALL ACTION*, HUMAN! IN THE NAME OF *ZURAS*, THE PRIME ETERNAL, *I* CLAIM THAT DEVIANT DOG!

THENA AND MAKARRI! THIS IS *OLYMPIAN* COMPANY INDEED!

*WHEN THE ETERNALS LAND THEIR VEHICLE...*

THIS IS *FANTASTIC*, THENA! CAN HE POSSIBLY BE--*KRO*?! THE DEVIANT GENERAL?

I MUST ADMIT THAT THE RESEMBLANCE IS REMARKABLE!

SO! WE MEET *AGAIN*, THENA!

*KRO*! IT *IS* YOU! BUT THAT'S NOT *POSSIBLE*!

YOU WERE ALIVE IN THE DAYS OF THE *FLOOD*! AND *NOW*--!

NOW YOU SEE ME ONCE *MORE*, THENA, A *MILLENNIUM* LATER! IT SEEMS TO ASTOUND YOU!!

ETERNALS *CANNOT* DIE! BUT YOU DEVIANTS HAVE *NEVER* BEEN KNOWN TO LAST *THIS* LONG!

THE DEVIANT STRAIN IS *CONSTANTLY* CHANGING! SOME OF OUR PRODUCTS ARE *SUPERIOR* TO OTHERS!

YOU HAVE KNOWN ME *WELL*, THENA! YOU MUST HAVE KNOWN THAT I, *TOO*, COULD BRIDGE THE CENTURIES!

BE THAT AS IT MAY! MY WORK HERE IS *DONE*! I'M CERTAIN THAT THE HUMANS HAVE *TAKEN* THE BAIT!!

THE *BAIT*? WHAT HAVE YOU *PLANTED* IN THEIR *MINDS*, KRO!?

DON'T YOU SEE, THENA? *HE'S GROWN HORNS!*

THE *"DEVIL" GAME!* A FAVORITE DEVIANT PASTIME!

*TRUE!* IT'S NEVER FAILED TO *AROUSE* THE HUMANS TO *FURY!*

*THE SPACE GODS HAVE RETURNED,* THENA! THE HUMANS WILL NOW ASSOCIATE THEM WITH *"DEVILS"* AND WAGE A COSMIC WAR, WHILE WE DEVIANTS WATCH THEM *DESTROY* EACH OTHER.

T-THAT'S HORRIBLE, KRO!! AND WHAT'S MORE, IT *WON'T WORK!* HUMANS HAVE *OUTGROWN* THIS "DEVIL" FEAR!

AH, BUT IT *WILL* WORK, MY DEAR! AND TO *PROVE* IT, I SHALL CALL A *TRUCE* ON ANY TERMS YOU WISH!!

I *ACCEPT* YOUR CHALLENGE! IT IS KNOWN TO ME THAT YOU HOLD AN *ETERNAL* CAPTIVE! *RELEASE* HER AND ALL OTHERS TAKEN IN YOUR RAID!!

IT SHALL BE DONE *AT ONCE,* FAIR ONE!

GET *THAT,* INSPECTOR-- *DEVILS, DEVIANTS, ETERNALS--!* WHAT'S IT ALL ABOUT?

IT MEANS DON'T MAKE ANY *HASTY MOVES!* SOMETHING TELLS ME THAT WERE *NOT* UP AGAINST THE FOLKS NEXT DOOR!

BUT, WE JUST *CAN'T--!*

WE'RE *NOT* COOLING OUR HEELS, HOGAN! CONTACT THE COMMISSIONER AND REPORT WHAT'S *HAPPENING* HERE

TELL HIM THAT THE FIGHTING IS AT AN *END--!* AND TO PREPARE TO DEAL WITH PEOPLE THAT ARE *OUT OF THIS WORLD!*

MEANWHILE, IN A SECURITY CHAMBER ABOARD THE RAIDING CRAFT...

THE HUMAN FEMALE **DIES** IF YOU SHOW THE SLIGHTEST SIGN OF PULLING ONE OF YOUR MYSTIC TRICKS, **SORCERESS!!**

I-I'M SORRY THAT THE DEVIANTS ARE USING **ME** TO KEEP **YOU** CAPTIVE, **SERSI!**

ETERNALS HAVE **ETHICS!** SHE'S **OBLIGED** TO PROTECT YOU!

OH, **SHUT UP!** I'M **BORED** WITH THE LOT OF YOU!! EVEN **ATTILA THE HUN** WAS MORE ENTERTAINING. HE BEHAVED LIKE A **SLOB**, BUT AT LEAST HE LIKED MUSIC AND DANCE!

REALLY, SERSI! THIS IS **HARDLY** THE TIME--!

OH, **BLAH!!** WHAT DO **YOU** KNOW ABOUT MAKING THE MOST OF ONE'S TIME!! YOU'RE ONLY **MARGO DAMIAN**, A SILLY LITTLE **HUMAN** WHO WILL PROBABLY BE **OLD** AND **BENT** BEFORE SHE LEARNS THE JOY OF LIVING!

ETERNALS, ON THE OTHER HAND, HAVE THE ACCUMULATED KNOWLEDGE OF **CENTURIES** OF LIVING WE LOVE A GOOD LAUGH -- EVEN AT THE EXPENSE OF THIS KIND OF **DUM-DUM!!**

**EEEYOW! OW!!**

**FOUL ETERNAL FEMALE!!** YOU CAN'T BE KILLED, BUT ONE BLAST FROM THIS WEAPON CAN TURN YOU INTO A **FRIGHTFUL HOWLING MESS!**

OH, **MY!** LISTEN TO THE **CHARMING** LITTLE TRIGGER-MAN!!

BE MY **GUEST**, GUN-HAPPY! **FIRE AWAY--!** IF IT TURNS YOU ON!

I-I **CAN'T!** MY FLAME-RIFLE HAS BEEN TRANSFORMED INTO **SOFT RUBBER!**

THIS IS **YOUR** DOING, WITCH!! IT IS KNOWN THAT YOU HAVE THE POWER TO REARRANGE THE **MOLECULES** OF **ANY OBJECT!**

SERSI'S PRANK SUCCEEDS IN SHAKING UP **BOTH** DEVIANT GUARDS...

THAT WAS A **FOOLHARDY** MOVE, ETERNAL! I'LL **KILL** HER BEFORE YOU CAN CHANGE **THIS** WEAPON!!

HORRID LITTLE **BEAST!** YOU CAN'T SINGE **DANDRUFF** WITH THAT PISTOL! WHY DON'T YOU **INSPECT** IT!!

AS THE GUARD APPREHENSIVELY TESTS HIS WEAPON, THE BARREL SUDDENLY SPROUTS **TENTACLES** WHICH SEIZE THE DEVIANT AND TRAP HIS FACE IN A **CAGE** OF **STEEL**!!!

AAAAA!!

IT IS AN **EMBARRASSING** MOMENT FOR THE SHIP'S EXECUTIVE OFFICER TO **ENTER** THE CHAMBER...

FORGIVE US, SIRE! THE SORCERESS HAS--!

SILENCE, FOOL!

THIS IS A **SHIP OF FOOLS**, DEVIANT! COME IN AND PICK UP A FEW SUGGESTIONS ON **"HOW TO IMPROVE YOUR 'I.Q.' AND GAIN POPULARITY!"**

OH, PLEASE, SERSI! Y-YOU **CAN'T** ANTAGONIZE THE **ENTIRE CREW!** WE HAVEN'T A CHANCE!

**BEGONE** FROM THIS CABIN-- AND GET **RID** OF THAT **MUTATED WEAPON!**

Y-YES, SIR!!

THOSE TWO SHOULD BE **IMMEDIATELY** DISPATCHED BEFORE WE ARE **ALL** HUMBLED AS WARRIORS!

HE'S **RIGHT**, OF COURSE! BUT FORTUNE HAS TURNED IN **YOUR** FAVOR! A TRUCE HAS BEEN ARRANGED! YOU'RE TO BE **FREED** AND RETURNED TO THE CITY!

**NOT SO FAST**, DEVIANT!!! THERE IS AN ETERNAL WHO IS UNACCOUNTED FOR! YOU **KNOW** WHO I MEAN!!

**IKARIS!** WHERE IS IKARIS!?

THE DEVIANT ACTIVATES A WALL-SCREEN AND BRINGS AN UNDERSEA RESCUE OPERATION INTO FOCUS!!!

I-I DON'T UNDERSTAND WHAT THOSE SKIN-DIVERS HAVE TO DO WITH--?

IT'S THE CYLINDER, MARGO! DON'T YOU SEE WHAT THEY'VE DONE WITH IKARIS!?

YOU ARE TRULY PERCEPTIVE, SERSI! IKARIS SLEEPS IN THAT CYLINDER!

SINCE AN ETERNAL CAN'T BE KILLED WE FOUND A METHOD TO NULLIFY IKARIS FOR ALL TIME!!

POOR IKARIS!! H-HE WOULD HAVE SLEPT THROUGHOUT ETERNITY!

VERY CLEVER!! BUT I WARRANT THAT THIS DIABOLICAL IDEA DID NOT SPRING FROM YOUR BRAIN!!

GREAT KRO PLANNED IT! HE IS A MATCH FOR THE BEST OF YOU ETERNALS!

COME WITH ME! YOUR MISSING COMPANION IS ABOUT TO ARRIVE!

I EXPECT TO FIND HIM UNHARMED, BRAGGART! OR ELSE YOU AND YOUR CREW WILL SPEND THE REST OF YOUR DAYS AS MUTATED FISH!

SERSI! DON'T START ANOTHER WAR!

WHEN THE THREE HALT OUTSIDE A DECOMPRESSION CHAMBER, A HATCH SLIDES OPEN TO REVEAL...

THE PRISONER HAS BEEN RETRIEVED AND PREPARED FOR RELEASE!

VERY WELL! UNLOCK THE CYLINDER!!

WELCOME BACK TO REALITY, IKARIS!

EFFICIENT FINGERS FLY TO A SERIES OF MINIATURE STUDS. THE CYLINDER SNAPS AND BEGINS TO DISENGAGE.

THE CYLINDER IS UNLOCKED, SIRE!

STAND ASIDE! I'LL TAKE OVER AT THIS POINT!!

KLIK!

MOMENTS LATER...IKARIS IS BROUGHT INTO VIEW...

SO THAT'S IT! YOU FIENDS PLANTED A BRAIN MINE ON HIS FOREHEAD!

HE WAS MEANT TO BE KEPT IN PERMANENT SHOCK!

NO SOONER IS THE BRAIN MINE REMOVED THAN IKARIS BEGINS TO **STIR!** HE RISES SHAKILY FROM HIS INDUCED STATE OF IMMOBILITY...

I-IKARIS!! D-DO YOU FEEL ANY **ILL EFFECTS?**

OH--HELLO, MARGO. I-I'M FINE--JUST FINE. THAT IS, IF YOU CAN CALL A **LAPSE OF MEMORY** "FEELING FINE"!

YOU WERE **BUSHWACKED,** HERO!! SOMEWHERE IN YOUR BATTLE WITH THE DEVIANTS, YOU WERE **DECORATED** WITH A BRAIN MINE!

IKARIS LEVITATES FROM CONFINEMENT IN THE CYLINDER WITH NATURAL EASE...

H-HE'S RECOVERING **RAPIDLY...**

WHY NOT? **HIS** SKULL **CAN'T** BE DENT-ED!

HAVE A CARE, SERSI! YOU **TOY** WITH A **BRUISED** MALE EGO!

DESTINY HAS GIVEN YOU **NEW LIFE** ETERNAL!

I'M NOT THRILLED BY YOUR COMMENTS, DEVIANT! LET'S SEE HOW DESTINY DEALS WITH **YOUR** SKULL!

**HEY!** YOU **CAN'T DO** THAT, SOREHEAD!

NO! **NO!**

SHE'S TRYING TO TELL YOU THERE'S A TRUCE! **TRUCE!**

A WALL-SCREEN SUDDENLY FLASHES FAMILIAR IMAGES WITHIN THE CHAMBER...

THIS TRUCE IS **OBVIOUSLY** A FACT--! WHEN ONE SEES ETERNALS **MINGLE** WITH DEVIANTS!

**CEASE** THIS HOSTILITY! OLD FEUDS HAVE NO PLACE IN UNIVERSAL ISSUES!

OUR TASK IS TO UNITE **ALL** OUR SPECIES IN AN EFFORT TO DEAL **PEACEFULLY** WITH THE **SPACE GODS!**

CYNICAL KRO FEELS THAT THIS WILL **FAIL!**

HE FEELS THAT THE HUMANS WILL **PANIC** AND **RESIST** THE GODS!

I-I'VE **SEEN** THE SPACE-GODS! I-I WAS AMONG THE INCA RUINS WHEN I SAW THEIR SPACE SHIP **LAND!**

**THAT'S** WHY EVIL KRO ATTACKED THE HUMANS--! TO **SET** THIS WAR INTO MOTION!

WAR WITH SUCH **POWERFUL** BEINGS COULD BE **CATASTROPHIC** FOR HUMANITY!

ONLY THE **DEVIANTS** WOULD **GAIN** FROM SUCH A WAR!

THE HUMANS WILL NOW **STRIKE** AT THE GODS ON **SIGHT!**

CAN WE **STOP** THIS, THENA?

THERE IS **HOPE!** THE TRUCE IS ON **MY** TERMS! IT MEANS THAT **KRO** WILL HELP, TOO!

**I'LL** HELP! IF I CAN!

THE HUMANS MUST **LEARN** THE ENTIRE STORY ABOUT THEIR RELATIONSHIP WITH THE SPACE GODS AND OUR TWO SPECIES! BUT IT MUST BE REVEALED FIRST TO **ACADEMIC** SOURCES--WHO CAN **ANALYZE** AND **VERIFY** THE FACTS!!

**SAM HOLDEN!** ER-- I MEAN DOCTOR SAMUEL HOLDEN! HE'D BE **PERFECT** FOR THE JOB!!

HOW DOES **HE** QUALIFY?

YES, CHILD-- HOW **INTERESTING** IS THIS--SAM HOLDEN?

HE'S A COLLEAGUE OF FATHER'S. HE TEACHES **ANTHROPOLOGY...** AND I'M QUITE SURE **YOU'D** FIND HIM **BORING,** SERSI!

WE SHALL DECIDE WHEN YOU GET HERE! FAREWELL!

AND **I** SHALL DECIDE WHEN I **MEET** HIM, MY DEAR!

**ENOUGH,** YOU TWO! LET'S NOT SPEND OUR LIVES ABOARD THIS CRAFT!!

HMM--!

**WE'RE READY TO DEPART, DEVIANT!** AND PRAY THAT YOU AND I NEVER MEET **AGAIN--!!** FOR THE NEXT CLASH WILL SEE **YOU** REPLACE **ME** IN THAT CYLINDER!

I SHOULD **GLADLY** BE SEALED IN IT-- TO BE **FREE** OF YOU ETERNALS!

AT ANY RATE, ONE OF OUR **AIR SHUTTLES** IS ON ITS WAY TO PICK YOU UP!

SOON AFTER, IN SIGHT OF THE NEW YORK SKY-LINE, AN AIR SHUTTLE DEPARTS FROM THE HIDDEN UNDERSEA CRAFT, WITH THE FREED ETERNALS...

THE CITY STILL SMOLDERS, BUT THERE'S NO SIGN OF FIGHTING!

THEN THE TRUCE IS *REALLY* IN EFFECT!

THE DEVIANTS HAVE INFLICTED NO MORE THAN *FRIGHT* AND *PROPERTY DAMAGE*... YET THIS IS AN IMAGE OF DISASTER THE HUMANS WON'T SOON FORGET!!

HUMANS *FEAR* WHAT THEY DON'T UNDER-STAND! I'M CERTAIN THAT LEARNING THE *TRUTH* WILL CALM THEM DOWN!

THE FIRST STEP IS TAKEN THAT NIGHT IN THE OFFICE OF DOCTOR SAMUEL HOLDEN...

MARGO, I STILL FIND IT *DIFFICULT* TO BELIEVE EVERYTHING YOU'VE TOLD ME. AND YET, IT *EXPLAINS* THE *FOUNDATION* OF EVERY PREVAILING MYTH!

I PROMISED YOU PROOF, DOCTOR HOLDEN--! *LIVING* PROOF!

THESE PEOPLE YOU'RE GOING TO MEET WILL LEAVE *NO DOUBTS* CONCERNING THE *VALIDITY* OF WHAT I'VE TOLD YOU!

ACTUALLY, THEY'RE VERY MUCH LIKE *WE* ARE-- EXCEPT FOR THEIR *UNIQUE* FORMS OF DEVELOPMENT.

IF THEY LIVE UP TO EXPECTATIONS, THEIR VERY APPEARANCE WILL *REVOLUTIONIZE* THE FIELD OF *ANTHROPOLOGY!*

I'M READY TO MEET THEM, MARGO! BY JUPITER, I CONSIDER IT A SIGNAL HONOR THAT YOU CHOSE *ME* TO CREATE A CLIMATE IN WHICH HOMO SAPIENS CAN MEET HIS LONG *LOST* COUSINS FACE TO FACE!

I-I *KNOW* THAT YOU'RE THE MAN FOR THE JOB! THERE'S MORE AT *STAKE* THAN A CRASH COURSE IN *NEW SOCIAL-RELATION-SHIPS*...

MARGO DAMIAN GESTURES AT THE DOOR. IT IS INDEED THE *MOMENT OF TRUTH* FOR HUMANITY, WHICH HAS LIVED FOR COUNTLESS CENTURIES WITH MYSTERIES IT COULDN'T DEFINE...

IT'S TIME TO BACK UP MY STORY!

COME IN--! ALL OF YOU!

DOCTOR HOLDEN, WE'D LIKE TO *INTRODUCE* OURSELVES--! THUS AN *OPEN DISCOURSE* WITH HUMANS BEGINS!!

A WEEK PASSES. CLOSED NEGOTIATIONS WITH POLITICAL AND LAW ENFORCEMENT AUTHORITIES ARE **FINALLY** FOLLOWED BY THE SURPRISE APPEARANCE OF **GUESTS** AT CITY COLLEGE, AMID A **VISIBLE STIR** FROM THE ASSEMBLED STUDENTS OF ANTHROPOLOGY...

**WOW!** WHO ARE **THEY?**

I DON'T KNOW. THEY LOOK LIKE THE **CAST** OF SOME NEW **MUSICAL!**

IT MUST BE SOME KIND OF **PUT-ON!**

WHO CARES! THOSE CHICKS ARE **COOL!**

GOOD DAY TO YOU, HUMANS WE COME AMONG YOU SCHOLARS IN THE SPIRIT OF FRIEND-SHIP AND COOPERATION!

**HAH!** THEY DERIDE US! HUMANS RESPECT ONLY THE **LASH** AND THE **FLAME-GUN!**

I'VE GIVEN THIS CLASS THE CHANCE TO **STUDY** THESE GRACIOUS VISITORS... AND I'M CURIOUS ABOUT YOUR **IMPRESSIONS!** EVEN FACETIOUS COMMENTS WILL BE ACCEPTED!

HE'LL GET 'EM! WE MUST LOOK **ALIEN** TO THEM!

THE REACTION OF THE ENTIRE STUDENT BODY IS SWIFT IN COMING...

EXCEPT FOR THE DUDE WITH HORNS, THE OTHERS LOOK LIKE *U.F.O. PILOTS!*

WITH THE *DEVIL* IN THEIR GROUP, YOU CAN'T TELL WHETHER THEY COME FROM HELL OR HEAVEN!

I PASS!

*I GET IT!* THEY WERE AT THE BOTTOM OF ALL THAT *TROUBLE* LAST WEEK!

*RIGHT!* THEY TRIED TO BURN DOWN THE CITY.

A TORRENT OF SPECULATION POURS FORTH, UNTIL...

IS THE SUBJECT OF *ANTHROPOLOGY* INVOLVED IN THIS VISIT, DOCTOR HOLDEN?

NOW, *THAT* QUESTION STRIKES CLOSE TO THE MARK!

YES, THESE VISITORS REPRESENT A STARTLING *BREAKTHROUGH* IN THE *STORY OF MAN!!*

DOCTOR HOLDEN MOTIONS FOR *IKARIS* AND *KRO* TO ASCEND THE PLATFORM...

NOW, TO BEGIN THIS DEMONSTRATION, I *INVITE* THESE TWO GENTLEMEN TO THE PODIUM.

HAVE A CARE, HUMAN! I AM NOT *TAKEN IN* BY POLITE AIRS!

*LOOK WELL UPON THE WORK OF THE AGES, HUMANS!*

TO PUT IT *SIMPLY*, YOU SEE BEFORE YOU THREE *DIVERGENT SPECIES OF MAN!*

IN THE DIM PAST, A *COMMON ANCESTOR* PRODUCED US ALL!!

SINCE THAT DAY, WE'VE ALL *SHARED* THIS PLANET TOGETHER!! BUT *YOU'VE* KNOWN THIS ONLY THROUGH YOUR MYTHS AND LEGENDS!

OUR THREE SPECIES HAVE MADE *CONTACT* IN THE PAST... BUT *WE* HUMANS RECORDED THEM AS *FANTASY!*

YOU SEE, IT WAS THE ONLY WAY IN WHICH THE HUMANS COULD *LIVE* WITH THE FACTS AND *STILL* KEEP THEIR EGOS!

OKAY! SO YOU'RE THE GODS AND DEVILS OF OUR PAST! WHAT BRINGS YOU OUT OF THE CLOSET NOW?

MY SPECIES HAS BEEN OUT BEFORE! WE ONCE RULED THE WORLD!

DON'T CLOUD THE ISSUE, KRO! THE HUMANS MUST GET TO KNOW US FIRST!

THEN KNOW THIS--WE'RE NEITHER GODS NOR DEVILS! I AM OF THE DEVIANTS!! MY SPECIES IS BASICALLY POSSESSED OF AN UNSTABLE ATOMIC STRUCTURE!

THUS, BY MANIPULATING OUR OWN ATOMS, WE CAN CHANGE OUR FORM!

WATCH CLOSELY!

HIS HORNS! THEY'RE GONE!!!

MORE THAN MAGIC... LESS THAN A MIRACLE! I'M NO LONGER A THREAT! WHY, IF I RAN FOR OFFICE, I DARESAY, I'D GET SOME OF YOUR VOTES!

YOU WOULDN'T GET MINE! I STILL THINK YOU'RE THE DEVIL!

SURE! THE DEVIL CAN DO EXACTLY WHAT YOU DID!

HAHAHAH!! THUS THE DEVIL REMAINS YOUR FEAR--AND MY WEAPON!

HOLD! YOU MUST ALSO RECKON WITH THE ETERNALS!

IKARIS SPEAKS AND TAKES TO THE AIR...

HEY!! WOW!!

THAT'S NO TRICK! BUT HOW DOES HE DO IT!?

IT IS MENTAL AND PHYSICAL FUSION--!! MIND AND MATTER WORKING IN PERFECT HARMONY...

OH, TELL THEM IT'S LEVITATION!

WE CAN DO IT... AND THEY CAN'T!!

PERHAPS SOMEDAY THEY WILL IF THEY DON'T WIPE THEMSELVES OFF THE MAP!

MY NAME IS ARNOLD RADISCH... AND I THINK WE'RE BEING SUBJECTED TO CHEAP GIMMICKRY! YOU CAN'T MAKE ME BELIEVE THIS IS FOR REAL!!

HARD-NOSED HUMANS! THEY CONTINUE TO BELIEVE WHAT THEY WANT TO BELIEVE!

ONLY FEAR MOVES THE HUMANS! YOU SEE, THENA? MY ATTACK WAS A SUCCESS!

DON'T CROW YET, KRO!

TIME IS THE ANSWER, FRIENDS! THEY NEED TIME TO ABSORB ALL THIS.

THAT LITTLE SMART-ALECK ARNOLD SHALL LEARN FASTER THAN THE REST, NOT TO TRIFLE WITH THE ETERNALS!

THEN --!!!

LOOK! LOOK AT ARNOLD!!

T-THIS IS A FREAK-OUT!!

SHE DOESN'T HAVE TO GET PERSONAL! I'M ENTITLED TO MY OPINION!!

CRAZY!

HE'S BECOME A SECOND-RATE BEN GRIMM!

HAHAHAHAHA! ARNOLD'S LOST HIS FACE! BUT HE'S GOT HIM-SELF A BETTER ONE!

GO ON-- TOUCH IT, ARNOLD! SEE IF THAT'S FOR REAL!

OMIGOSH!! I-I LOOK LIKE THAT GUY IN THE FANTASTIC FOUR--THE THING!

SERSI IS PETULANT, BUT NOT VINDICTIVE. A WAVE OF HER HAND RESTORES ARNOLD RADISCH TO HIS NONDESCRIPT INDIVIDUALITY...

AS YOU WERE, HUMAN!!

THIS WAS MERELY DONE TO HELP YOU THINK IN DEPTH!

HE DOES HIS BEST THINKING IN THE LOCKER ROOM! HAHAHA!

UHHHH--! MY OLD FACE IS BACK! AT LEAST I WON'T HAVE TO EXPLAIN THE OTHER ONE TO MY PARENTS!

SERSI!! THIS IS TO BE A CRASH COURSE, NOT A CIRCUS ONCE OUR THREE SPECIES CAN FACE EACH OTHER --WE CAN THEN CONFRONT THE SPACE GODS!!

THE SPACE GODS! THE SPACE GODS!! IF THEY PUT AN END TO JOY-- THEY PUT AN END TO ALL THINGS!

AT THAT MOMENT, HIGH IN THE **ANDES MOUNTAINS**, A GROUP OF AGENTS HAVE BEEN DROPPED, IN ORDER TO SURVEY AN **ALIEN** STRUCTURE.

**THERE IT IS!** JUST AS THE AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHER WAS IT! BUT--**WHAT IS IT?**

ABOVE ALL, THE BIG QUESTION IS **WHAT'S HAPPENING INSIDE THAT DOME?**

**U.F.O.'S** AND **SPACE GIANTS!** WE'VE DRAWN THE **KOOKIEST** JOB ON RECORD!

THE JOB BEGINS. SURVEILLANCE IS ESTABLISHED AND FURTHER OPERATIONS ARE TO FOLLOW. NICK FURY'S MEN MAKE THEIR FIRST REPORT TO BASE...

THIS IS STEVENSON! THE GROUP HAS REACHED POINT ONE, AND CAN SEE THE DOME CLEARLY. BUT THE INTERIOR'S A **MYSTERY!** WE INTEND TO MOVE IN **CLOSER...**

**HEY!** I THINK I SPOTTED MOVEMENT! BUT I-I **LOST** IT--

BOTH CELESTIAL AND EARTHMAN HAVE THE CAPABILITY OF MOVEMENT BUT THE CELESTIAL DOES IT **DIFFERENTLY**-- AND **FASTER!** THE GIANT SHADOW IS UPON THE AGENTS WITH A SUDDEN, STARTLING SWIFTNESS...

**LOOK!** UP THERE!

I-IT'S ONE OF THE SPACE GIANTS!

GAMMENON, OF THE FOURTH HOST, IS AN AWESOME SIGHT TO BEHOLD! TO ATTEMPT TO DESCRIBE HIM IS FRUITLESS! TO FACE HIM IS FRIGHTENING! TO ESCAPE HIM IS IMPOSSIBLE!

**HOLD YOUR FIRE!** H-HE MAY JUST BE **CURIOUS!**

I-I'M NOT WAITING UNTIL HE **GRABS** US LIKE **MICE!**

H-HE'S GOING FOR US!! I-I'VE GOT TO SHOOT!

**POW! POW!**

GROUP TO BASE! WE'VE MADE CONTACT! THE ALIEN-- HE'S BIG! **BIG!!**

THERE ARE **FINAL** WORDS WHICH END IN A SCREAM! IN THE SILENCE THAT FOLLOWS; ONLY THE WINDS ARE LEFT TO SPEAK FOR **MISSING MEN...**

**SHIELD** TO GROUP ONE! COME IN, GROUP ONE!! **REPORT! REPORT!**

**NEXT ISSUE:**

THE COMING OF--

# THE FOURTH HOST

THE ETERNALS

# MARVEL COMICS GROUP™

APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

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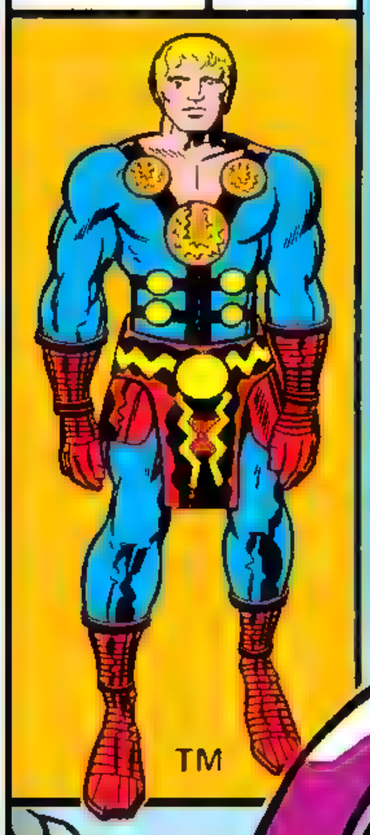

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## WHEN GODS WALK THE EARTH!

# THE ETERNALS™

COME BACK! YOU CAN'T ESCAPE THE SPACE GOD!

WE THOUGHT IT WAS ONLY A LEGEND--

--B-BUT...THAT THING IS ALIVE! IT'S ALIVE!

# Stan Lee PRESENTS: THE ETERNALS!™

EDITED, WRITTEN AND DRAWN BY: JACK KIRBY • INKED AND ENJOYED BY: MICHAEL ROYER

WHAT WOULD HAPPEN IF THEY CAME BACK!!? THE ANCIENT CARVINGS OF THE INCAS NOT ONLY LEFT A RECORD OF THE SPACE GODS, BUT ALSO PREDICTED THEIR RETURN TO EARTH... IN THIS MAGAZINE THE PREDICTION COMES TRUE!!! A MASSIVE SPACE VEHICLE HAS ESTABLISHED A BASE ON A BROAD PLAIN IN THE ANDES MOUNTAINS... AND NOW, AMID THE INCA RUINS... GIANTS WALK!! --AWESOME BEINGS-- WITH A PURPOSE THAT COULD DECIDE THE FATE OF ALL HUMANITY!!!

## THE FOURTH HOST

LIVING HERE AMONG THESE COSMIC BEINGS IS THE *OPPORTUNITY* OF A LIFETIME, *AJAK!* MY LEARNED COLLEAGUES WOULD GIVE ANYTHING TO BE IN *MY* PLACE

REMEMBER, DOCTOR DAMIAN, THE *CELESTIALS* ARE STUDYING *US*, AS WELL!!

LETTERED BY: M. ROYER
COLORED BY: GLYNIS WEIN

THE GIANTS COME AND GO IN WAYS UNDEFINABLE TO THEIR OBSERVERS. THEY LEAVE THE HEMISPHERICAL DOME THEY'VE BUILT AND SUDDENLY REAPPEAR IN THE SAME MYSTERIOUS MANNER.

GAMMENON, THE GATHERER, RETURNS WITH HIS ROD OF "LIFE-SEED" CAPSULES, WHICH JEMIAH, THE ANALYZER, RECEIVES FOR STUDY...

LOOK SHARPLY AT THAT BALL OF CAPSULES AT THE END OF THE ROD, DOCTOR!

YOU MAY AS WELL TELL ME WHAT THEY ARE! THEIR SIGNIFICANCE ESCAPES ME!

THE CELESTIALS CALL THE CAPSULES "LIFE-SEEDS". IN SHORT, DOCTOR THOSE CAPSULES ARE THE STORED ATOMS OF LIVING ORGANISMS!!

GAMMENON HAS BEEN GATHERING SAMPLES OF THE LOCAL ANIMAL AND PLANT LIFE!

I-IS IT POSSIBLE THAT SOME OF THOSE CAPSULES MAY BE THE COMPACTED ATOMS OF HUMAN BEINGS?!

THE MASSIVE FORM OF GAMMENON SLOWLY WHEELS TO FACE THE TINY ONLOOKERS. DOCTOR DAMIAN RECOILS AS THE GIANT'S SHADOW FALLS UPON THE INCA PYRAMID. HIS LOWERING ARM HOVERS LIKE A SUSPENDED MOUNTAIN! HIS FINGERS CLUTCH A CAPSULE WHICH IS HELD OUT TO THE MEN...

H-HE'S OFFERING ONE OF THE CAPSULES TO US!! I-I WONDER-!!

NEVER QUESTION OR REFUSE A CELESTIAL... ACCEPT THEM AS YOU WOULD THE WHIMSIES OF FATE!

GAMMENON'S PALM OPENS AND RELEASES THE CAPSULE TO THE FAITHFUL LITTLE ADUUM, WHO **KNOWS** THAT IT CONTAINS THE ATOMS OF ITS KIND! THE INTELLIGENCE OF THE ADUUM ON THIS PLANET IS A NEVER-ENDING MARVEL...

I THANK YOU, GREAT CELESTIAL! IF IT IS YOUR WISH THAT I ***RECONSTRUCT*** THE ATOMS OF THESE MEN, THEN IT SHALL BE ***DONE***

YOUR PURPOSE IS BENEVOLENT AND ABOVE QUESTION.

***GOOD HEAVENS!*** YOU MEAN THAT THING CONTAINS-??

***ADUUM*** IS THE CELESTIALS' WORD FOR "***MAN***"! MAN THE ***HUMAN***-- MAN THE ***DEVIANT*** AND THE SPECIES KNOWN AS THE ***ETERNALS*** IT IS AJAK THE ETERNAL WHO HAS LEARNED TO ***COMMUNICATE*** WITH THE INCA SPACE GODS!!!

T-THESE CELESTIALS ***COLLECT MEN*** I-IN THE SAME MANNER IN WHICH THEY GATHER THE ***LOWER*** FORMS OF LIFE!! I-IT'S RATHER ***HUMILIATING*** YOU KNOW--

IT'S NECESSARY TO ***READJUST*** ONE'S PERSPECTIVE IN THE PRESENCE OF CELESTIALS!

YOU MUST REALIZE THAT ***THEY*** WERE ABROAD IN SPACE ***BEFORE OUR GALAXY WAS FORMED!***

SOON, IN ONE OF THE CHAMBERS OF THE INCA PYRAMID...

WELL, IT WON'T TAKE LONG TO ***REASSEMBLE*** OUR NEW GUESTS!

IT MAY TAKE ***LONGER*** TO CALM THEM DOWN!

DEALING WITH HUMANS HAS ALWAYS BEEN A **TOUCHY** TASK, BUT AJAK DETERMINES TO TAKE IT IN STRIDE! HE **PRESSES** THE CAPSULE-ACTIVATOR AND THE ATOMIC REASSEMBLING PROCESS ***BEGINS...***

***RREEEEEE!***

STAND BY, DOCTOR. THE ATOMS WILL *SORT* THEMSELVES INTO THE *PROPER* INDIVIDUALS IN A MATTER OF MINUTES!

I-IT'S A SIGHT AS *INCREDIBLE* AS THE CELESTIALS *THEMSELVES!*

I-I WONDER WHO THESE MEN *ARE?* PROBABLY SOME *LUCKLESS* MOUNTAIN CLIMBERS WHO REACHED THE *WRONG* PEAK!!

I WOULDN'T SAY THAT--THEY MAY FIND THIS ADVENTURE *FASCINATING!*

I MUST ATTEND TO ANOTHER TASK! I'LL BE BACK *SHORTLY!*

*MEANWHILE, BEHIND THE CHAMBER DOOR, THE CAPSULE RAPIDLY DISSOLVES IN THE DAZZLING FIRE OF ATOM-FLOW...*

*RRREEE!!!*

*WITH CYCLOTRON-SPEED, THE ATOMS SWARM ABOUT UNTIL THEY ATTAIN AN INCONCEIVABLE PITCH!!! THEN...!!!*

*FWOM!*

*THE NEXT MOMENT, THREE DAZED MEN STAND IN THE CHAMBER'S CENTER, TRYING TO MARSHALL THEIR SENSES...*

*TYLER! PARKS!* Y-YOU GUYS *OKAY?*

*STEVENSON!* WHERE ARE WE?

AND WHERE IS THAT *GIANT ALIEN!?*

THE MEN OPEN THE CHAMBER DOOR AND FIND DOCTOR DAMIAN!

STEVENSON! LOOK!

A MAN! A PROFESSOR TYPE IF EVER I SAW ONE.

THERE'S NO SIGN OF THE GIANT!!

GENTLEMEN, GENTLEMEN! YOU MUST BE BURSTING WITH QUESTIONS... BUT FIRST, BE ASSURED THAT YOU'RE NOT IN ANY DANGER...

I'M DOCTOR DANIEL DAMIAN. I AM AN ARCHAEOLOGIST!

I'VE HEARD OF YOU, DAMIAN. KINGSTON UNIVERSITY, RIGHT?

RIGHT.

TO GO ON FURTHER, YOU MEN ARE IN AN ANCIENT TEMPLE OF THE INCAS, WHERE I'VE FOUND A TREASURE HOUSE OF ARTIFACTS!

DON'T FENCE WITH US. WE'RE INSIDE THE BASE OF THE GIANT ALIENS, AREN'T WE!?

YES... WE ARE. BUT DON'T BE TOO CERTAIN THAT THE CELESTIALS ARE AS ALIEN TO THIS PLANET AS YOU THINK!

TELL US MORE, DOC! TELL US ALL YOU KNOW ABOUT THESE SPACE GIANTS!

THEN YOU'RE GOING TO SHOW US HOW TO LEAVE THIS PLACE WITH THE INFORMATION!

--UNDERSTAND, DOC?

WE'RE SHIELD OPERATIVES... AND WHAT WE LEARN HERE IS VITAL TO SECURITY!

IT'S VERY SERIOUS BUSINESS, DOC!

OF COURSE IT'S SERIOUS BUSINESS! GOOD LORD, BUT IT'S SERIOUS!

BUT THAT PISTOL IS NOT YOUR TICKET OUT OF THIS PLACE!

SUDDENLY...!

ARE YOU FOOLS BEREFT OF YOUR SENSES!?

WELCOME BACK, AJAK!

OUR WEAPONS!! THEY'RE LEVITATING!

WHA--!?

H-HE LOOKS LIKE ONE OF THOSE OLD INCA GODS -- *COME TO LIFE!*

ALLAY YOUR FEARS AND SUSPICIONS, HUMANS. WEAPONS ARE *USELESS* HERE. AN *OPEN* MIND WOULD SERVE YOU *BETTER!*

AFTER *THAT* TRICK, WE'RE WILLING TO LISTEN.

THEN *LISTEN!* I AM AJAK, AN *ETERNAL!!* MY SPECIES, LIKE YOURS, IS *NATIVE* TO EARTH. BUT WE LIVE LONGER THAN YOU. IN FACT, *WE CANNOT DIE!*

IF YOUR SPECIES DEVELOPED ON EARTH, IT'S BEEN THE *GREATEST* KEPT *SECRET* OF ALL TIME!

JUMPING CATFISH!!

IT'S *NEVER* BEEN A SECRET! WE'VE BEEN AMONG YOUR KIND ALL THROUGH YOUR HISTORY! OUR SO-CALLED *"TRICKS"* HAVE MADE US CREATURES OF MYTHOLOGY INSTEAD OF FACT!!

WHILE THE HUMANS *FOUGHT* EACH OTHER ON THE EARTH'S SURFACE, WE SPENT THE CENTURIES ON MOUNTAIN TOPS, *DEVELOPING* THE ABILITY TO DO THINGS LIKE *THAT!*

IT'S ALL *VERY* INTERESTING, AJAK! BUT OUR ASSIGNMENT IS TO GET *FACTS* ABOUT THE SPACE GIANTS AND CLEAR OUT!

AS A HUMAN BEING I'VE GOT TO WARN YOU THAT THIS IS *NOT* THE PLACE OR TIME FOR FOOL HEROICS!

HE'S *RIGHT*, YOU KNOW!

AS AN *AMERICAN*, DAMIAN, YOU'VE GOT TO *HELP* US!

DON'T YOU SEE WHAT WE'RE TRYING TO TELL YOU? WE'RE NOT CAPABLE OF MEASURING THE MIGHT OF THE CELESTIALS!! THEY ARE DOWNRIGHT *INVINCIBLE!!*

*THEIR KIND IS AS OLD AS THE STARS!! THEIR HOME IS THE VAST UNIVERSE!*

AS AN ETERNAL, I CAME HERE AMONG THE INCAS WHEN THEY WERE A *GREAT* POWER! I STAYED TO *WITNESS* THE ARRIVAL OF A CELESTIAL HOST ON EARTH.

AND WHEN THEY LEFT... I'D LEARNED MUCH--YET *STILL* VERY LITTLE...

"THE CELESTIALS VISIT A PLANET IN FOUR HOSTS. THE *FIRST* CAME TO EARTH BEFORE THERE WERE MEN UPON IT... BUT THEY *DID* FIND OUR COMMON ANCESTOR, WHO BECAME SUBJECT TO THEIR EXPERIMENTS...

"*WRATH* AND *DISCIPLINE* MARKED THE COMING OF THE *SECOND* HOST! MANY CIVILIZATIONS SPAWNED IN THE DIM PAST *VANISHED*, FORCING MAN TO CLIMB AGAIN IN NEW *DIRECTIONS!*

"INSPECTION AND CULTIVATION WAS THE JOB OF THE **THIRD HOST.** THE INCA CIVILIZATION RECEIVED THEM AS GODS. THE CELESTIALS ROAMED THE WORLD ON STRANGE VEHICLES AND CAUSED CONSTERNATION AMONG THE SUPERSTITIOUS!

STRANGELY ENOUGH, A **RED-BEARDED** FELLOW AND MYSELF HELPED TO **ORGANIZE** THE FLIGHT CREWS THAT SERVICED THE CELESTIAL VEHICLES AND ARRANGED THEIR **FLIGHT** PLANS...

SAY NO MORE! I'LL BET THAT **YOU** AND **REDBEARD** BECAME LEGENDS **TOO!**

**NEVER** HEARD OF 'EM!

DOCTOR DAMIAN **DOESN'T** SHARE THAT VIEW! THE NAMES **QUETZLECOATL** AND **TECUMOTZIN** GOT HIM ALL WORKED UP!!

WHAT ARE **YOUR** NAMES?

I'M **STEVENSON!** THOSE TWO ARE **TYLER** AND **PARKS!**

**HMPH!!**

I MEANT **FULL** NAMES!

YOU'LL GET NO MORE THAN **WHAT I GAVE YOU!** THIS **ISN'T** A TEA PARTY!--AND WE **DON'T** PLAN ON STAYING LONG!!

**THERE'S STILL AN ACE CARD TO BE PLAYED!!**

STEVENSON'S LEFT HAND IS **TIGHTLY** CLENCHED AND HELD OUT OF SIGHT BEHIND HIS BACK! IF THERE IS AN ACE CARD, IT IS HIDDEN IN HIS FIST--AND **READY** TO BE USED!!

THEN STEVENSON MAKES HIS MOVE! HE STUNS AJAK WITH A POWERFUL BLOW TO HIS JAW...

UGH!

GOT HIM!

WAM!

GO, STEVENSON, GO!!

THIS HAYMAKER SHOULD PUT HIM DOWN!

KRAK!

STOP! THIS IS MADNESS!

DOCTOR DAMIAN MAKES A FUTILE ATTEMPT TO INTERVENE... BUT HE IS NO MATCH FOR EXPERIENCED SHIELD AGENTS!!

FOOLS!! FOOLS!!

EASY, DAD!

I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU MEN ARE UP TO-- BUT I TELL YOU, IT'S USELESS!

WE'LL FIND THAT OUT SOON ENOUGH!! GOOD LUCK, STEVENSON!! REMEMBER TO TAKE COVER!

WILL DO!

STEVENSON RACES UP THE STONE STEPS LEADING TO AN OPENING IN THE TEMPLE ROOF...

NOW WE'LL SEE WHAT THESE COCKAMAMIE LEGENDS ARE MADE OF!

SHIELD WANTS SOLID FACT, NOT OLD WIVES TALES!

GODS, DEVILS, OR SPACE GIANTS --THIS TACTICAL NUCLEAR DEVICE WILL DECIDE WHAT THEY ARE!

TICK-TICK-TICK-TICK--

THE SMALL NUCLEAR BOMB FLIES FROM STEVENSON'S HAND THE MOMENT THAT ONE OF THE GIANTS COMES INTO VIEW...

CHEW ON THIS, MISTER BIG!!

STEVENSON'S EAGERNESS TO WITNESS THE EFFECT IS SO STRONG THAT HE FOOLISHLY IGNORES THE URGE TO FIND COVER!! HE STARES IN WONDER AS THE BOMB COMPLETES ITS DEADLY ARC TOWARD THE ALIEN.!!

SUDDENLY, THE BOMB'S MOMENTUM DIMINISHES UNTIL IT HALTS IN ITS FLIGHT!! THEN IT HANGS IN MID-AIR -- SUSPENDED AND ALIVE -- BEATING OUT IT SONG OF DOOM.!!

TICK-
-TICK-
-TICK--!

TEFRAL OF THE FOURTH HOST, WHO CAN DETECT THE MOVEMENT OF THE SMALLEST GRAIN OF SAND IN THE WIND, HAS SEEN THIS OBJECT AND REACHES FOR IT...

HIS HAND CLOSES UPON IT AND RISES HIGH ABOVE HIS HEAD. TEFRAL KNOWS FULL WELL WHAT WILL HAPPEN. HE WAITS PATIENTLY FOR THE TICKING TO STOP.
THEN--!!!

HARARAR

WHEN THE BLINDING FLASH AND THE ROARING ECHOES HAVE SUBSIDED, TEFRAL FEELS THE **ESSENCE** OF THE BOILING VAPORS RISING FROM HIS MAMMOTH PALM. THE THOUGHT OF THOSE WHO WOULD DETONATE PLUTONIUM WITH SUCH RASH ABANDON IS A **SADDENING** ONE, INDEED!

THUS, IT **BEGINS**! WHEREVER THE FORTH HOST MUST DO ITS TASK THE **SURVIVAL CREATURES**, HAVING REACHED THEIR TECHNICAL MATURITY, REACT WITH A FEAR **BEYOND** THEIR PAST BEHAVIOR... ISN'T IT STRANGE HOW THEY SEEM TO SENSE THAT **THIS** IS THE

**TIME!**

**JEMIAH** APPROACHES... HE IS GATHERING **ALL** TO RECEIVE THE WORD.

THE HOST ASSEMBLES AND STANDS OBEDIENTLY. THEIR BROTHERS ARE **MANY** AND STAND THUS ON A THOUSAND WORLDS WHERE THE SAME TASK MUST BE DONE. THE SEEDS OF **AWARENESS** ARE SOWN IN THE GALACTIC FIRMAMENT... THEY GROW WITH **GREAT** CLAMOR.

THEY REACH FOR THE STARS BUT THEY ARE FOREVER CUT DOWN BY THE FOURTH HOST!! THIS HAS PROCEEDED SINCE **BEFORE** GENESIS WAS WRITTEN...AND WILL CONTINUE UNTIL--

**THE DAY OF ALPHA**

ABOVE THE EARTH, IN FIXED ORBIT, THEIR CYCLOPEAN SPACE HOME HOVERS WITH SOMBER MAJESTY. INSIDE IT IS THE ONE ABOVE ALL. HIS WORD WILL SET THE TASK IN MOTION. IT WILL BE HIS WORD THAT WILL END IT...

HE SENDS DOWN HIS MESSAGE ON A LASER BEAM, TEN BILLION YEARS EVOLVED. SEEN ONCE BEFORE BY THE ANCIENT EARTH. IT WAS CALLED THE LADDER OF FIRE!!

SEEN BY THE MODERNS, IT IS STILL A WONDROUS MATTER, CONSIDERING THE FLAMING, SNAPPING, EVER-CHANGING FORMS OF LIGHT WHICH MAKE THE HORIZON RING WITH SOUND --AND MEN FEEL THE PRESENCE OF THEIR OWN SOULS...

W-WHAT IS IT!!? I-I'VE NEVER SEEN OR HEARD ANYTHING LIKE IT!

THERE'S A SPACESHIP UP THERE! WE KNOW THAT --AND NO MORE!

FEAR-STRICKEN HUMANS! IT'S NOTHING MORE THAN A CODED VOICE-- DECODING ITSELF!

STEVENSON AND HIS MEN CLIMB OUT UPON THE PYRAMID'S LEDGE FOR A CLOSER LOOK AT THE CELESTIAL RITUAL...

I-IT'S JUST INCREDIBLE! THEY HANDLE A BOMBS LIKE ASPIRIN--! AND TALK IN WAYS THAT MAKE NASA LOOK LIKE A GRADE SCHOOL !!

YEAH... BUT THOSE ARE THE FRILLS! WHAT'S THE MEAT OF IT!!?

WHY ARE THEY HERE!?

THE "LADDER OF FIRE" HAS NOW BECOME A BLAZING COSMIC PILLAR WHICH DISSOLVES THE STANDING HOST IN WHITE ENERGY...

LOOK! THAT THING IS ENGULFING THE GIANTS!

T-THEY'RE FADING OUT!!

A MOMENT LATER, THE HOST HAS VANISHED! THEY HAVE ENTERED, AND ARE PART OF THE "WHEEL WITHIN A WHEEL," THEY HAVE BEEN TRANSLATED INTO THE BASIC FORM OF ALL MATTER!!

QUICK!! COVER YOUR EYES! T-THIS IS LIKE WATCHING TEN HYDROGEN BOMBS GOING OFF AT ONCE!

THEN, IT IS OVER! THERE IS AN ECHO TOO LOUD TO BE HEARD... A SUDDEN RUSH OF WIND WHICH PICKS UP THE ONLOOKERS AS IF THEY WERE STRAY LEAVES AND HURLS THEM AGAINST THE PYRAMID WALL...

LOOK OUT!! YAAAAA--!!

SILENCE... PAIN... AND SLOW RETURN TO A WORLD NOW FILLED WITH STRANGE PHENOMENA. STEVENSON IS FIRST TO GATHER HIS THOUGHTS...

W-WHAT WAS THAT THING? I-IT SWALLOWED THE GIANTS... AND NOW THEY'RE... GONE!!!

THEY HAVEN'T GONE! THEY'RE MERELY EVERYWHERE--! IN EVERY CORNER OF THE EARTH!

UGH--!

A-AFTER WHAT WE'VE *SEEN* HERE, MY MEN AND I MUST GET BACK TO *SHIELD* STARTING *NOW!*

*IMPOSSIBLE,* STEVENSON.

NOTHING'S GOING TO STOP US! *NOTHING!!!*

*HE WILL!!!* IT SEEMS YOU *OVERLOOKED* HIS PRESENCE DURING THESE PROCEEDINGS!

*STEVENSON'S EYES **SWEEP** ACROSS THE ANCIENT PLAIN UNTIL THEY **FIX** UPON THE PYLONS -- AND THE GIANT WHO STRADDLES THEM...*

*GOOD LORD! HE'S THE **LARGEST** OF THEM ALL! HOW COULD I HAVE MISSED SPOTTING HIM!!?*

HE'S AWARE OF *YOU,* STEVENSON! *ANYTHING* THAT MOVES ON THIS PLANET IS SUBJECTED TO HIS *SCRUTINY!*

AND *I* TELL *YOU,* MISTER *SHIELD* AGENT, THAT *NEITHER* YOU NOR I WILL LEAVE THIS PLACE FOR THE NEXT *FIFTY YEARS!*

*WHAT!?*

IS THIS SOME KIND OF *JOKE!?*

*LIKE THE MOUNTAINS, VISIBLE BEYOND THE **TRANSPARENT** WALLS, THE MAMMOTH FIGURE TOWERS WITH AN AGELESS SERENITY...*

*INSIDE THE IMPREGNABLE ARMOR IS A MIND INCOMPREHENSIBLE TO MAN! IT BROODS IN A MANNER WHICH ENCOMPASSES SPACE AND TIME AND THE INVISIBLE TRAILS THAT CROSS IN DIMENSIONS NOT OF THIS UNIVERSE...*

YOU MAY *DIE* LAUGHING IF YOU *ATTEMPT* TO LEAVE!

I ADVISE YOU *NOT* TO DO SO!

BUT, YOU'RE GOING TO TRY IT ANYHOW, AREN'T YOU!

GOT TO, AJAK... RISK IS A PART OF THE JOB... I'M SORRY I BELTED YOU... YOU'RE OKAY...

SO LONG, DOC...

GOOD LUCK, STEVENSON...

WARY OF THE IMMOBILE GIANT, THE SHIELD AGENTS RACE DOWN THE PYRAMID STEPS IN A BID FOR FREEDOM...

THIS IS IT, FELLAS! KEEP GOING! DON'T STOP UNTIL WE'RE IN THE CLEAR!

I'M HIP!

DOCTOR DAMIAN AND AJAK WATCH WITH SILENT ADMIRATION AND LEADEN HEARTS AT MAN'S CONTINUAL WILLINGNESS TO GAMBLE AGAINST MOUNTAINOUS ODDS!!

IT'S WRITTEN IN MYTHOLOGY THAT THE GODS ARE UNPREDICTABLE!! DO YOU THINK THOSE COURAGEOUS FOOLS MIGHT POSSIBLY--MAKE IT?

I AM AN ETERNAL, NOT A CELESTIAL! IT IS NOT MY WILL THEY DEFY!

THE ANSWER COMES SWIFTLY... IN A BLINDING, SEARING FLASH, FROM WHICH THE TWO RECOIL WITH INSTINCTIVE ACTION!

TTLZSHH!

AJAK!! W-WHAT WAS THAT!? Y-YOU DON'T THINK--

NO, I DON'T THINK THOSE MEN ARE DEAD! BUT I'M QUITE CERTAIN THAT THEY DIDN'T ESCAPE...

W-WHAT HAPPENED? W-WHAT WAS DONE TO THEM?

NOTHING THAT WASN'T DONE BEFORE... BE ASSURED, DOCTOR, OUR VISITORS WILL SPEND THEIR NEXT FIFTY YEARS IN RELATIVE CALM!

AJAK KNOWS WHAT LIES AT THE FOOT OF THE PYRAMID STEPS. HE ALSO KNOWS THAT STORED ATOMS EXPERIENCE NO DISCONTENT...

ARISHEM, THE MIGHTIEST OF THE FOURTH HOST, HAVING ENFORCED HIS WILL, RAISES HIS MAMMOTH ARM TOWARD THE SKY. IT SIGNALS THE BEGINNING OF THE **FIFTY YEAR JUDGMENT** -- THE FINAL STAGE OF AN EXPERIMENT CARRIED OUT BY THE CELESTIALS, AMONG THE COUNTLESS STARS, ON COUNTLESS WORLDS LIKE EARTH, IN THE FOND HOPE OF GENERATING WHAT THE CELESTIALS TERM AS **ALPHA DAY!**

BUT ENDLESS TIME HAS PRODUCED ENDLESS **FAILURE!** THUS, ARISHEM STANDS READY TO DO WHAT HE HAS **ALWAYS** DONE.

**HE IS A PLANET-KILLER!!**

ENGRAVED ON HIS THUMB IS THE FORMULA FOR **WORLD DESTRUCTION!!**

**IF EARTH FAILS.. EARTH DIES!!**

**NEXT! DON'T MISS IT!!! MYSTERIES AND MONSTERS IN THE CITY OF THE TOADS**

THE ETERNALS

# MARVEL COMICS GROUP™

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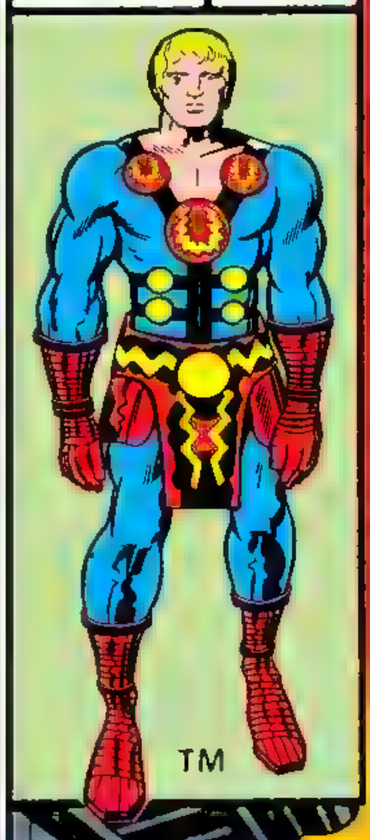

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## WHEN GODS WALK THE EARTH!

# THE ETERNALS™

WAR IN THE CITY OF TOADS!

KRONA AND THENA--
DEVIANT AND ETERNALS--
SIDE BY SIDE AGAINST
THE REJECTS!!

# Stan Lee PRESENTS: THE ETERNALS!™

EDITED, WRITTEN AND DRAWN BY: JACK KIRBY * INKED & LETTERED BY MIKE ROYER * COLORED BY GLYNIS WEIN * APPRECIATED BY ARCHIE GOODWIN

## SPACE GODS!

YOU'LL SEE THEM, IF YOU *KEEP READING* THIS MAGAZINE!!

## ETERNALS!

YOU'LL SEE *THEM* IN EVERY ISSUE!

## DEVIANTS!

READ ON, AND LEARN *MORE* ABOUT THEM!! THEY WERE HERE *BEFORE* THE WHEEL! THEY WERE HERE *BEFORE* THE FLOOD! THEY ARE WITH US, EVEN AS WE AMUSE OURSELVES WITH OLD HORROR MOVIES! WELL... *COME AND SEE AN OLDER HORROR!* COME AND SEE--

IN THE CITY OF THE TOADS, THE PRICE OF LIFE IS HIGH!!

ZOK!

POK!

IN THE CITY OF THE TOADS, THE FIGHT FOR LIFE IS A DAILY ROUTINE!

UGHH-H!

WHAM!

IN THE CITY OF THE TOADS, THE MASK OF CRUELTY IS MORE VALUED THAN THE LIVING HEART!!

CEASE FIGHTING! COME FORTH--REJECT!!

THIS ONE STILL LIVES--!

DROP HIM!

YOU HEARD THE ORDER!

WOE TO HIM WHO LIVES IN THIS CITY! FOR HERE, PEACE IS A SHADOW--AND SHAME, THE DAILY BREAD.

DO AS YOU'RE TOLD--OR TASTE THE ELECTRIC WHIP!

ZZPP!

MOVE!

KRAK!

WHERE IS THE DREAM--THE BRIGHT STAR OF HOPE? HERE IT LIES STILLBORN--ENTOMBED FOREVER--DEAD BEFORE ITS TIME.

THE REJECT IS DEFIANT, GREAT TODE!! SHOW HIM NO MERCY!!

SILENCE! THE DECISION IS MINE TO MAKE!

SO SHALL IT BE FOR ALL ETERNITY, MOST EXALTED OF DEVIANTS!!

AIA

WHAT IS A REJECT? IS IT NOT THAT WHICH IS DESPISED OR CAST OUT BY ITS BROTHERS? OR CAN IT BE A FEAR--A VISION OF DOOM--A FINGER POINTING AT THE **FLAWS** OF THE PERFECT SOCIETY...

ON YOUR KNEES, REJECT!

BOW TO THE PRESENCE OF THE ALL-HIGHEST!

REMOVE HIS MASK!

HE IS TRULY **UGLY**, SIRE! THE MERE SIGHT OF HIM MAY **UPSET** YOU!

BUT HE IS **UNEQUALED** IN COMBAT! A **BORN** KILLER, IF I MAY SAY SO!

YOU MAY **NOT**! IT IS **MY** PERCEPTIONS THAT ARE **UNEQUALED** IN THIS LAND!

AS THE MASK IS REMOVED, GREAT TODE'S GATHERED COURTIERS **GASP** AT WHAT IS REVEALED!!

**SHOCKING!** HE IS **REPELLENT** TO BEHOLD!

AND YET, HE IS A **DEVIANT** --BORN OF OUR SPECIES AND ALLOWED TO **SURVIVE!**

**GREAT TODE** SHALL DO WHAT **MUST** BE DONE!

CONDEMN HIM, SIRE! **CONDEMN THE REJECT!**

THE MASK IS **LIFTED**, SIRE. THIS CURSED CREATURE **AWAITS** YOUR DECISION!

HE DOES WELL TO **HIDE** HIS FACE!

**RAISE YOUR HEAD, REJECT!**

GREAT TODE *SPEAKS* TO YOU!! RAISE YOUR HEAD -- OR *RISK* DESTRUCTION!!

SEE FOR *YOURSELF*, SIRE! THAT FACE IS YET *ANOTHER* REMINDER OF THE SPECTRE THAT HAUNTS OUR SPECIES!

ARE WE NEVER TO *PREVENT* OUR *UNSTABLE* ATOMS FROM RUNNING AMUCK? EACH PASSING DAY CONTINUES TO BRING *NEW* HORRORS SUCH AS THIS ONE AMONG US!

H-HE COULD *EASILY* BE TAKEN FOR AN ETERNAL -- OR, AT BEST, A FOUL *HUMAN!*

*IN THE CITY OF TOADS, NO NAME BUT "REJECT" CAN BE FOUND FOR HIM. **HIS FACE IS HIS CRIME**-- AND TO DISGUISE THIS CRIME, HE **EXCELS** IN WHAT IS MOST ADMIRED BY HIS FELLOW DEVIANTS: A SUPERIOR CUNNING AND THE ABILITY TO **DESTROY** HIS ENEMIES!!*

*BE STILL!! IF THIS DEVIANT IS UNWORTHY TO LIVE, IT CAN ONLY BE PROVEN IN COMBAT! THEREFORE, WE MUST FIND AN OPPONENT WHO CAN DEFEAT HIM!! THIS IS THE DECREE OF TODE!!*

AT THAT MOMENT, ANOTHER DEVIANT IS A GUEST AMONG THE HUMANS IN NEW YORK CITY. KRO, THE GENERAL, RELIVES THE PAST WITH AN OLD ACQUAINTANCE...

IN A BYGONE AGE WE WERE MORE THAN MERE FRIENDS, THENA! WE LEARNED THAT YOU, AN ETERNAL, AND I, A DEVIANT, COULD FIND COMMON GROUND FOR--

IT WAS NOT TO BE, KRO!! AT BEST, WE CAN BE NOTHING MORE THAN FRIENDS!

NOT SO! IN TRUTH, I AM A DEVIANT AND THE INHERITOR OF TRAITS YOU FEAR AND HATE! YET, YOU KNOW ME TO BE NOBLE, WISE, AND BRAVE--ALL QUALITIES YOU ENCOURAGE!

THE GULF BETWEEN US IS TOO WIDE, KRO!! TOO WIDE!

THE PASSING CENTURIES HAVE NARROWED THE GAP! LET ME PROVE IT, THENA!

YOU'RE MAD, KRO! WE ARE WHAT WE ARE! WHY WON'T YOU ACCEPT IT!?

BECAUSE I DARE TO HOPE --AND I ASK THE SAME OF YOU!! BELIEVE WITH ME, THENA--FOLLOW ME AND WITNESS A MIRACLE!

ONCE BEFORE I WENT BENEATH THE WATERS WITH YOU. MYTHOLOGY RECORDS IT AS AN UNHAPPY STORY!

I'VE DALLIED TOO LONG AMONG THE HUMANS. AN AIR SHUTTLE IS DUE TO RETURN ME TO MY VESSEL. COME WITH ME, THENA!! YOU CAN'T REFUSE!

I-I--

MEANWHILE, INSIDE THE APARTMENT OF **DOCTOR SAMUEL HOLDEN**, A DISCOURSE ON ANTHROPOLOGY IS IN PROGRESS...

THIS IS THE DISPLAY I SPOKE OF, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN...

AS AN ETERNAL, I CAN ONLY SAY I'M ***NOT*** INSPIRED.

AS A HUMAN, I THINK THE BEARD LOOKS KIND OF ***CUTE!***

HMPF!

DEVIANT

HUMAN

ETERNAL

BUT THESE BUSTS ARE MERE SYMBOLS OF A NEW AND INSPIRING ***FACT***-- THAT THERE ARE ***THREE*** SPECIES OF MAN! THINK OF WHAT WE HUMANS CAN NOW LEARN FROM OUR DISTANT COUSINS!

THINK OF THE EXCITING ***CHANGES*** TO COME, WHEN OUR THREE SPECIES BEGIN TO ***MEET*** ON A CULTURAL LEVEL!!

CHANGES ARE ***DEFINITELY*** IN ORDER, DOCTOR HOLDEN!! ETERNALS, LIKE HUMANS, DEMAND A FEW ***LAUGHS*** WITH THEIR FORMAL DISCUSSIONS!

OH, ER--QUITE SO, ***SERSI!*** BUT I ***DON'T*** QUITE KNOW WHAT YOU--

***SERSI*** THE ETERNAL COMPLETES WITH A ***GESTURE*** THE KIND OF WHIMSY WHICH HAS ***EARNED*** HER A PLACE IN MYTHOLOGY...

--MY STARS!

POP!

DEVIANT

HUMAN

ETERNAL

NOW... ***THAT'S*** HOW TO ***HOLD*** AN AUDIENCE, SAMUEL!!

IT'S UNFORTUNATE I WAS ***TOO LATE*** TO KEEP THIS ONE FROM ***DESERTING*** YOU!

Y-YOU'RE ***RIGHT!*** T-THE OTHERS -- THEY'RE ***GONE!*** WHAT ON EARTH!??

THAT ACCOUNTS FOR *IKARIS*, *MAKKARI*, AND *MARGO DAMIAN*! I WONDER ABOUT THE *TWO* ON THE TERRACE.

I-I HAD NO IDEA THAT EVERY-ONE WAS GROWING *BORED*!

PERHAPS I CAN DO *BETTER* WITH KRO AND THENA!

I-I'LL INVITE THEM IN FROM THE TERRACE, AND--

YOU'RE LATE *AGAIN*, SAMUEL.

THAT AIR SHUTTLE HAS COME AND *GONE*! AND SO, I FEAR, HAVE *MORE* OF YOUR HONORED GUESTS!

W-WHY, THIS IS TERRIBLE!! *TERRIBLE*!! T-THEY LEFT *WITHOUT* A WORD!!

I-I DON'T SUPPOSE ALL THIS *SAYS* MUCH FOR MY TALENT AS A HOST. I-I'VE SIMPLY *RUINED* OUR EVENING!

NOT *OUR* EVENING! I FIND YOU FASCINATING, DOCTOR SAM HOLDEN! AND I AIM TO *DO* SOMETHING ABOUT IT!!

*S-SERSI*! W-WHAT HAVE YOU DONE? THE FURNITURE'S *GONE*! A-AND H-HOW DID *THEY* GET IN HERE!?

I MERELY *RESHUFFLED* SOME ATOMS IN A VERY *CONSTRUCTIVE* MANNER.

*SHALL WE DANCE* ??

SOON AFTER THEIR DEPARTURE, KRO AND THENA ARE TAKEN TO AN UNDERSEA WAR-CRAFT WHICH SLIPS **UNNOTICED** INTO THE DEEPS AT GREAT SPEED...

FOR ALL THEIR PROGRESS, THENA, THE HUMANS ARE **NO** MATCH FOR DEVIANTS IN THIS ELEMENT.

THE CENTURIES HAVE MADE THIS YOUR **HOME!** THE DEVIANTS HAVE BEEN WELL HIDDEN, KRO.

MILES OF TRAVEL REVEAL THE FIRST TRACES OF THE DEVIANTS' LOST GRANDEUR: A GIANT CARVED FACE, **HALF-BURIED** IN THE OCEAN FLOOR, PEERS WITH SIGHTLESS EYES THAT DATE FROM A TIME **BEFORE** THE GREAT FLOOD.

THE RUINS BECOME MORE **PLENTIFUL.** THEY'RE LIKE SCATTERED BONES, LEADING TO THE **SKELETON** OF SOME TITANIC ANIMAL.

THE PAST STILL LIVES HERE, THENA! LOOK UPON THE POWER OF A WORLD ONCE SHAKEN AND CRUSHED BY A MIGHTY FORCE!!

THAT'S WHY WE ARE **STILL** ON OUR MOUNTAINTOPS, NOW THAT THE **FOURTH HOST** HAS ARRIVED...

YOU ETERNALS KEPT TO YOUR MOUNTAINTOPS WHILE WE DEVIANTS STOOD AND **FOUGHT** THE SECOND HOST OF THE **SPACE GODS!!**

AT THIS MOMENT, THE DEVIANT CRAFT ENTERS A FORMIDABLE BARRIER, ERECTED AGAINST SURPRISE ATTACK...

THEY'LL FIND US **READY** THIS TIME! OUR NEW WEAPON-SYSTEMS ARE **INVINCIBLE!!**

**HAH!** IS IT NOT ALWAYS THE **FLEA** WHO MOCKS THE **ELEPHANT!**

THEN, A **GREAT** CAPITAL CITY GLIDES INTO VIEW. IT IS AS IT WAS IN ITS **FINAL** MOMENTS. MAMMOTH STRUCTURES, BROAD AVENUES, IDOLS OF STONE WHICH ONCE TOUCHED THE SKY--ALL LIE **HUMBLED** ON THE BROKEN BACK OF A CONTINENT WHICH **SANK** WITH ITS TEEMING MASSES FROM A COSMIC **BLOW!!**

IT WAS THE FLEA WHO BUILT THIS SYMBOL OF MIGHT AND ***REBUILT*** IT, THENA! YOU SHALL SEE OUR ***NEW*** CITY!

IT IS ***DOOMED*** TO SUFFER THE FATE OF ***THIS*** ONE IF YOU DREAM OF RESISTING THE ***SPACE GODS!***

THE DEVIANT CRAFT CONTINUES ON TOWARD A MONSTER SEA-WALL, WHERE GIANT LOCKS OPEN TO RECEIVE IT...

WE DREAM OF THAT AND *MORE*, THENA-- THAT IS WHY I *BROUGHT* YOU HERE!

IT IS *MADNESS* --BUT LEAD ON, KRO!

AFTER ENTERING THE LOCKS, THERE IS A STRONG UPWARD PULL-- THEN THE CRAFT SURFACES IN THE MAIN CANAL OF THE NEW LEMURIA ...

WE HAVE *ARRIVED!* DOCK HER AT THE *ROYAL* PIER!

KRO AND THENA ARE GIVEN A *CEREMONIAL* GREETING AS THEY WALK ASHORE...

HAIL, KRO! HAIL, DAUGHTER OF ZURAS!

LEMURIA OPENS WIDE ITS DOORS TO AN HONORED GUEST!!

WE SEEM TO BE AN *ILL-KEPT* SECRET, KRO!

I MADE CERTAIN THEY KNEW OF YOUR VISIT-- AND AFFORDED YOU A *PROPER* WELCOME!

THE ARRIVALS PROCEED THROUGH A FLANKING HONOR GUARD TOWARD THE CITY'S CENTER...

NO ETERNAL EVER FOUND SUCH HOSPITALITY AMONG THE DEVIANTS!

COME. THERE IS *MORE* TO SEE!

THERE IS A SUDDEN BLUR OF MOVEMENT! A CLAMMY, MISSHAPEN ARM THRUSTS ITSELF AT THENA AND GRASPS HER WITH UNCANNY STRENGTH...

B-B-BRUH-BURUBARR-

BY THE FIRE BOLTS OF ZURAS! WHA--!!?

THEN...

FOOL! DID YOU LET THAT REJECT GET OUT OF HAND?

I-I COULDN'T HELP IT! HE TORE FREE!

AWAY WITH YOU BOTH!!

HURRY! LEST THIS CREATURE'S SIGHT OFFEND OUR ROYAL VISITOR!

POOR THING! HE OFFENDS ME NOT! IF ANYTHING, THE PLIGHT OF MALFORMED BIRTH MAKES HIM THE VICTIM, AND FATE THE VILLAIN!

HE'LL SOON BE RID OF HIS MISERY! STRANGE HOW HIS KIND SEEMS TO SENSE THE COMING OF PURITY TIME!

PURITY TIME! I'D FORGOTTEN THAT IT WAS DUE!

LET'S NOT TARRY HERE, THENA! WE MUST PAY OUR RESPECTS TO GREAT TODE!

NOT YET, KRO! IF THERE IS TRUTH HERE, I MUST KNOW IT ALL!

WHAT IS THE TRUTH, KRO? WHAT IS PURITY TIME!?

I-I CANNOT TELL YOU NOW! I-IT WOULD DESTROY YOUR FAITH IN MY DREAM... THE DREAM OF REMOVING THE DEVIANT CURSE OF STRUCTURAL INSTABILITY... THE HOPE OF ERASING THE UGLINESS FROM OUR IMAGE!

VERY WELL... I SHALL KEEP MY THOUGHTS ELSEWHERE FOR THE PRESENT.

DON'T SIT THERE, SOLDIER! WE CAN'T BE ON OUR WAY WITHOUT THAT VEHICLE!

I-I COME AT ONCE, SIRE!

BUT BEFORE THE VEHICLE CAN MOVE, IT IS BLOCKED BY A MILLING HORDE OF DEVIANTS WHICH SUDDENLY POURS FROM EVERY CORNER OF THE CITY...

HERE THEY COME! HERE COME THE DEATH WAGONS!

THEY'VE COLLECTED EVERY MISBEGOTTEN MONSTER AMONG US!

WHA--?

BLAST! I'M UNDONE!

DON'T PUSH! I WANT TO SEE THEM!!

MAKE WAY! MAKE WAY!!

THE DEATH WAGONS ROLL IN SLOW PROCESSION THROUGH THE SQUARE. THEIR CARGOES OF HORROR ARE TO BE SEEN IN FULL VIEW OF THE CURIOUS ONLOOKERS...

UGH! LOOK AT THEM! SEE THE CURSED THINGS!

CLEANSE US OF THEM! LEAVE US PURE AND CLEAN!

THERE IS NO HIDING FROM WHAT IS VISIBLE IN THE DEATH WAGONS. EACH GROTESQUE FORM IS A LIVING REMINDER OF THE THREAT WITHIN EVERY DEVIANT'S BODY--UNSTABLE ATOMS, RUNNING WILD IN FRIGHTENING PATTERNS, PRODUCING FRIGHTENING OFF-SPRING! THE SOLUTION IS PURITY TIME--AN INFAMOUS RITUAL WHICH NEVER ENDS!

THIS IS THE *LAST* WE SHALL SEE OF THEM! *GOOD RIDDANCE*, I SAY!

*WHAT* WILL BE DONE WITH THEM, KRO? *WHERE* ARE THEY TAKING THEM?

TO THE PLACE--

--FROM WHICH THEY WILL *NEVER* RETURN TO HAUNT US. IT IS *THERE*, THENA.

*HORRIBLE! HORRIBLE!* THERE ARE MONSTERS HERE INDEED! BUT THEY ARE *NOT* IN THE DEATH WAGONS!

MAKE NO JUDGMENTS, ETERNAL, UNTIL *YOUR* SPECIES BEGINS TO CARRY WITHIN ITSELF THE *UNCONTROLLABLE* SEED!

THE MOB THINS OUT. COME, THENA. COME AND SEE THE *ONE* REJECT WHO OFFERS THE DEVIANTS A *HOPE* OF STABILITY!

I'VE ALREADY SEEN *TOO MUCH*, KRO! THOUGH I JOIN YOU, WHATEVER WAS BETWEEN US HAS *DIED* WITH THOSE HELPLESS CREATURES!!

*MEANWHILE, IN THE COMBAT ROOM ON THE PALACE GROUNDS...*

HE'LL *NEED* IT THIS DAY!

IT IS RUMORED THAT GREAT TODE HIMSELF *CHOSE* HIS OPPONENT. HE MUST BE A FOE TO BE *RECKONED* WITH!!

*I* KNOW WHO HE IS! THE REJECT WILL DIE IN *THIS* BATTLE!

YOU'LL *LIKE* THIS ARMORED SUIT, REJECT! IT'S MADE OF THE FINEST *FLEXIBLE STEEL!*

THE MERE MENTION OF DEFEAT DRIVES THE REJECT INTO A FRENZY...

LOOK OUT! THE DOG'S SNATCHED A WEAPON!!

STOP HIM!!

GET MORE HELP!! HE'LL KILL US, I TELL YOU!

POW! POW!

WITH SAVAGE FURY, THE REJECT SCATTERS HIS TRAINERS...

RUN FOR YOUR LIVES! HE'S GONE MAD!!

UNGRATEFUL MONSTER! THIS IS WHAT WE GET IN RETURN FOR SHOWERING HIM WITH KINDNESS!

KILLERS DON'T APPRECIATE FAIR TREATMENT!! BUT NEVER FEAR-- HE'LL SOON MEET HIS MATCH!!

GREAT TODE HAS SAVED HIM FOR THE ULTIMATE BATTLE AGAINST THE ULTIMATE REJECT!

SURELY YOU DON'T MEAN THAT HORROR THEY WHISPER ABOUT--YOU DON'T MEAN THAT THING THEY CALL KARKAS!?

SUDDENLY, THE ENTIRE STRUCTURE ROCKS TO A SERIES OF THUNDEROUS BLOWS...

BAMBAMBAM!

HEAR THAT? THEY MUST BE PREPARING HIM FOR THE ARENA!

B-BUT IT'S DANGEROUS TO TURN HIM LOOSE!

WAM!

FOOLS! FOOLS! THAT MAN-EATER WILL KILL EVERYONE IN SIGHT!

MEANWHILE, AT THE COURT OF GREAT TODE...

OUR *FAVORED* GENERAL IS BACK -- AND IN THE COMPANY OF A *CHARMING* GUEST!

THE DAUGHTER OF ZURAS, NO LESS!

*HAIL* TO GREAT TODE AND THE RULING FAMILY! I BRING AN *ETERNAL* -- IN A *NEW* EFFORT AT FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN OUR TWO SPECIES.

*HAH!* HE SEEKS ONLY TO RENEW HIS *DALLYING* WITH THIS *THENA!*

IF YOU EXPECT ME TO *GROVEL* AS DOES KRO BEFORE YOUR EXCELLENCY, I MUST *DECLINE* THE FORMALITY! ETERNALS *DO NOT* GROVEL!

*GROSS FEMALE!* YOU RISK A *FLOGGING!*

ETERNALS ARE *NOTORIOUS* FOR *POOR* DIPLOMACY!

FORGIVE HER, GREAT TODE!

GRANTED, KRO.

WE ARE IN A *FESTIVE* MOOD THIS DAY -- OUR FAVORITE SPECTATOR SPORT IS ABOUT TO BEGIN! YOU TWO ARE INVITED TO WITNESS A *SPECTACULAR* BATTLE!

YOUR WISH IS OUR JOY, SIRE! HOWEVER, COMBAT TO THE DEATH IS *MEANINGLESS* FARE TO AN ETERNAL WHO *CANNOT* DIE!

IT'S NOT ONLY MEANINGLESS -- IT'S SENSELESS, *SIRE!*

*INDEED!!* WELL, I'LL HAVE YOU KNOW THAT KILLING SERVES A *PRACTICAL* PURPOSE HERE!! IT RIDS US OF THE *UNWANTED!*

YET, THEY DO NOT DIE WITHOUT *VALOR!* THEY PERISH AS DO HEROES IN OUR *OWN* FIGHTING FORCES!

HAIL TO THE HEROES. SIT DOWN, KRO. I'LL MUDDLE THROUGH THIS MESS WITHOUT GAGGING.

PATIENCE, THENA. WE SEEK TO CHANGE A MILLENIUM--

DON'T TELL ME THE OTHER AXIOM ... THAT "CHANGE IS PRECEEDED BY DESTRUCTION!"

SIMMER DOWN, FEMALE! I KNOW THAT YOU LOVE A GOOD FIGHT! I WARRANT YOU'LL FIND THIS EXCITING!

A HUSH FALLS OVER GREAT TODE'S COURT AS AN OVERSEER'S VOICE BOOMS LOUDLY FROM A PUBLIC ADDRESS SYSTEM...

ATTENTION, PLEASE! THE TIME HAS COME TO HONOR GREAT TODE AND HIS ROYAL FAMILY WITH THE FINEST COMBAT THIS KINGDOM CAN PROVIDE!

BRING FORTH THE REJECT! LET HIM STAND BEFORE HIS BETTERS AND AWAIT THEIR APPROVAL.

GET ON WITH IT! DROP THE FORMALITIES AND BRING IN THE OTHER!

THE REJECT APPROACHES THE ROYAL SPECTATORS AND OFFERS THE ROUTINE SALUTE. IT IS THEN THAT HIS EYES SETTLE ON THENA...

S-SHE LOOKS AS I DO--YET SHE SITS WITH ROYALTY!

THERE, THENA! THAT'S WHAT I WANTED YOU TO SEE! THIS DEVIANT IS A REJECT OF A KIND WE'VE NEVER PRODUCED BEFORE!

H-HE'S HANDSOME BY ANY STANDARD! ARE YOU SURE THAT HE'S A DEVIANT??

BEFORE KRO CAN ANSWER, SOMETHING SMASHES ITS WAY INTO THE ARENA!! IT IS **HUGE!** IT IS **MONSTROUS!!** IT IS

# KARKAS!!!

KROAR!

HOLD HIM IN CHECK!

BACK! BACK-- YOU MAD MUTATE!!

BRING UP *MORE* CONTROL WEAPONS!

ALTHOUGH ALL THE ROYAL SPECTATORS ARE **PROTECTED** BY A HIDDEN ELECTRIC BARRIER, THEY ARE HIGHLY **UNCOMFORTABLE** IN THE PRESENCE OF THE MASSIVE MUTATE!! ONLY THENA RISES IN CONCERN FOR THE REJECT'S FATE...

STOP THE COMBAT! THE BOY WILL BE *SLAUGHTERED* BY THAT THING!

HAHAHAH!! IGNORE HER! *BEGIN THE BATTLE!*

FOOLS! FOOLS! YOU'LL DESTROY THE *ONE* OBJECT OF VALUE IN THIS *UGLY* DOMAIN!!

THERE'S *NOTHING* WE CAN DO, THENA! WHATEVER HAPPENS NOW *CAN-NOT BE STOPPED!*

WRONG, KRO!! IT CAN BE STOPPED!!!
BUT IT WILL TAKE A TITANIC SPACE GOD TO HALT...

# THE KILLING MACHINE

THE ETERNALS

30¢ CC

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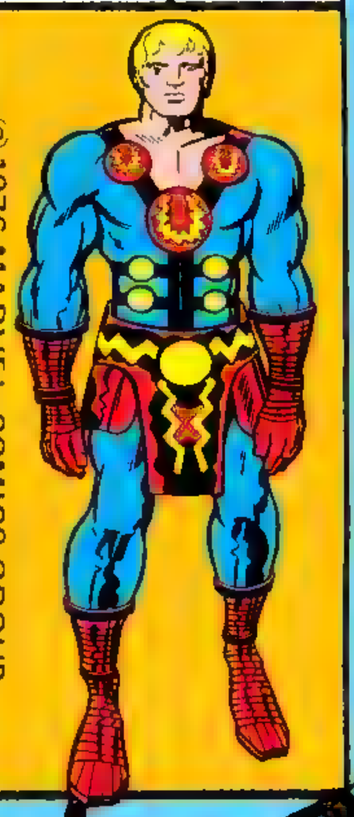

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# WHEN GODS WALK THE EARTH!

# THE ETERNALS™

HE CAN'T BE CONTROLLED!

HE CAN'T BE STOPPED!

HE'S...THE KILLING MACHINE!

# Stan Lee PRESENTS: THE ETERNALS!™

C-159

| EDITED, WRITTEN AND DRAWN BY: JACK KIRBY | INKED AND LETTERED BY: MIKE ROYER | COLORED BY: GLYNIS WEIN | PERUSED BY: ARCHIE GOODWIN |
|---|---|---|---|

WHO WERE THE **SPACE GODS**, WHOSE IMAGES ENGRAVED ON ANCIENT STONE TAUNTED US WITH AN AWESOME MYSTERY THAT MAY THUNDER TO LIFE IN TOMORROW'S SKIES?

WHO WERE THE **DEVILS** AND **DEMONS** THAT PLAGUED THE FOOTSTEPS OF HUMANITY AND FILLED ITS DREAMS WITH TERRORS THAT LINGER TO THIS DAY?

WHO ARE WE? CAN WE BE THE TRUE INHERITORS OF THE EARTH -- OR ONE OF MANY SEEDS PLANTED BY CELESTIAL HANDS?

**READ ON!!** SEE THE FANTASTIC BECOME REALITY!! SEE--

# THE KILLING MACHINE!!

NEW YORK CITY IS *FAR* BEHIND US, MARGO! WE SHOULD SEE *OLYMPIA* ANY MOMENT NOW!

I-IT'S CERTAINLY *WELL* HIDDEN!

IT'S *NOT* HIDDEN -- BUT MERELY KEPT FROM DISCOVERY BY HUMANS WITH A *MASS ILLUSION* PROCESS.

IN THE COMPANY OF IKARIS THE LEVITATOR AND MAKARRI THE LIGHT-SPEED RACER, MARGO DAMIAN SUDDENLY SEES WHAT NO OTHER HUMAN HAS EVER STUMBLED UPON: THE AWE-INSPIRING CITY OF OLYMPIA--MOUNTAIN-TOP HOME OF THE ETERNALS! AND SOMETHING--UNEXPECTED!!!

MAKARRI --LOOK!!

FIRE-BOLTS OF ZURAS!

WHERE DID THAT COME FROM?

IF THAT THING CAN FLY, IT CAN ALSO BITE!!

CLEAR THE DECKS FOR A ROUGH WELCOME!

IKARIS SWIFTLY MANEUVERS TO ESCAPE THE JAWS OF THE LUNGING MONSTROSITY...

SEEING THE SIGHTS OF OLYMPIA IS *NOT* THE INSPIRING EVENT IT *USED* TO BE!!

THE EYES OF IKARIS BLAZE BRIGHT AND **DEADLY**, AS DESTRUCTIVE FORCES LEAP AT HIS ATTACKER...

BUT, TO THE ASTONISHMENT OF ALL ONLOOKERS...

MAKARRI! LOOK--!!

I SEE IT, MARGO!

SPLAAM!!

THUNDER! A GREATER BEAST IS SPAWNED BY THE EXPLOSION!!

IKARIS IS SOON FLEEING A NEW AND MORE **DANGEROUS** PURSUER...

THIS HAS BECOME A GAME *NOT* TO MY LIKING!!

A *GAME?* IS THIS WHAT YOU OLYMPIANS CALL A *GAME?*

THERE ARE SOME AMONG US--AND *ONE* IN PARTICULAR--WITH WEIRD IDEAS CONCERNING THE STATE OF HUMOR!

TO RID OUR-SELVES OF *THIS* MONSTER, WE MUST SEEK OUT A *SMALLER* ONE!

MAKARRI'S VEHICLE BUZZES ABOUT LIKE AN ANGRY BEE UNTIL THE OLYMPIAN DISCOVERS HIS QUARRY IN A LEVITATED POSITION BENEATH A TOWERING MOUNTAIN LEDGE...

THERE'S THE RASCAL! THERE'S THE SOURCE OF OUR MONSTER!

H-HIS HEAD--IT GLOWS LIKE A SUN!

MAKARRI DRAWS A SMALL PISTOL-LIKE INSTRUMENT FROM HIS VEHICLE AND...

I'LL SOON PUT OUT THAT LIGHT! WHATEVER IMAGES IT CREATES FROM THE ATOMS OF THE AIR WILL VANISH, TOO!

A THIN BEAM LANCES TOWARD ITS TARGET! IT STRIKES THE LEVITATOR IN A SENSITIVE AREA AND SNUFFS OUT THE NIMBUS EFFECT WHICH OBSCURES HIS FACE...

SPINNG!

YEOW!

THIS SIGNALS AN END TO THE MORE PRESSING PERIL OF THE MONSTER! IT BEGINS TO FADE IN MID-FLIGHT -- UNTIL IT BECOMES A PALE HARMLESS GHOST...

THE GAME IS OVER. OUR FOE RETURNS TO THE MIND WHICH CONJURED HIM INTO EXISTENCE!

Y-YOU MEAN THAT THING WAS CREATED BY THAT BOY'S IMAGINATION !?

W-WHY, THAT'S ASTOUNDING! I-I DO HOPE THAT HE'S DISCIPLINED FROM TIME TO TIME!!

HUH!! I'D SAY THAT HE CAN USE SOME DISCIPLINING -- RIGHT NOW!!

DESPITE THEIR NEVER-ENDING PURSUIT OF PEACE, ETERNALS ARE STILL SUBJECT TO SOME VERY HUMAN WAYS OF ACHIEVING IT...

IKARIS OF THE POLAR MOUNTAINS DOES NOT TAKE THIS KIND OF WELCOME LIGHTLY! HOLD FAST, YOUNG ONE!!

SURELY YOU JOSH, DUMB ONE!!

SPRITE!! YOU ANGER AN HONORED GUEST! SUBMIT TO DISCIPLINE!!

THE CHASE CONTINUES INTO THE VERY HEART AND SPLENDOR OF HIGH OLYMPIA ...

THE SCAMP HAS DONE IT AGAIN! ANOTHER DAY, ANOTHER SKIRMISH!

I HOPE HE'S CAUGHT AND PUNISHED!

ONE SIDE, OLYMPIAN! I HAVE A MINNOW TO CATCH!

THAT LITTLE FOOL, SPRITE, WILL CAUSE A WAR SOMEDAY!

MEANWHILE, THERE ARE WISER EYES THAT VIEW THE SCENE WITH PATIENCE AND EXPERIENCE SO VAST THAT TIME ITSELF BOWS TO THEIR PERSPECTIVE...

EVEN DURING THIS TIME OF THE FINAL JUDGMENT OF ALL THINGS ON EARTH, THE YOUNG IGNORE ALL BUT THEIR YOUTH!!

I BEG YOUR ATTENTION, GREAT ZURAS! MY INSTRUMENTS HAVE GAINED A FIX ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE SPACE GODS!

IF YOU WISH TO STUDY THEM, MY SCANNERS ARE IN FOCUS!

THANK YOU, DOMO! I AM READY!!

ZURAS, FROM HIS MOUNTAIN-TOP, WILL SEE WHAT THE HUMANS ARE ALREADY WITNESS TO BELOW. IN A SOVIET WAR ROOM, A GREATLY ENLARGED PHOTO IS STUDIED...

THIS IS NO PHANTOM, COMRADE GENERAL! THIS IS A GIANT-- NOW AT LARGE IN THE SIBERIAN WILDERNESS!!

UNBELIEVABLE!! HAS THIS PHOTOGRAPH BEEN CHECKED FOR EVIDENCE OF SOME PRANK?!

THE PICTURE IS AUTHENTIC! WE ARE FACED WITH IMMEDIATE DECISIONS!

NEZZARR OF THE FOURTH HOST CREATES NO GREATER STIR IN SIBERIA THAN THE SIGHT OF ONEG, IN THE VAST HINTERLANDS OF AUSTRALIA...

THAT'S HIM, LADS! WHAT DO YOU THINK OF MY WILD STORY NOW!?

A DINGO U.F.O.!

STAND CLEAR OF HIM! HE'S AN OUTER SPACER FOR CERTAIN!

THE SPACE GODS OF THE INCA CARVINGS HAVE SUDDENLY RE-APPEARED TO CONFRONT HUMANS EVERYWHERE! HARGEN THE ANALYZER TREADS THE SWISS ALPS, MUCH TO THE CHAGRIN OF VETERAN CLIMBERS...

HOLY TOLEDO!!

WHAT'S T-THAT!?

CAREFUL! GRIP THE ROPE--OR YOU'LL DROP ME!

LOOK AT IT! LOOK AT IT!

BUT IT IS ESON WHO GENERATES THE MOST EXCITEMENT! IN MIAMI BEACH, SCORES OF BATHERS RUSH TO THE SURF AND STARE BREATHLESSLY OUT TO SEA...

DON'T PUSH, LADY! YOU CAN SEE HIM AS WELL AS I DO!

B-BUT, IT'S A GIANT!

H-HE'S BIGGER THAN THAT OCEAN LINER SAILING NEAR HIM!

W-WHAT IS HE?? W-WHERE DID HE COME FROM??

ESON, LIKE THE OTHERS OF THE FOURTH HOST, IS A PRODUCT SPAWNED BY THE COSMOS ITSELF! IT IS SMALL WONDER THAT HE TOWERS ABOVE THE MARVELS OF MAN, FOR HE IS FROM PLACES WHERE MARVELS EXPAND TENFOLD, IN TIME CONTINUUMS TOO AWESOME FOR HUMANS TO BEHOLD...

I CAN'T RISK FLYING ANY CLOSER! HE MAY SWAT US OUT OF THE SKY!

ARE YOU DAFT? THIS CAMERA WILL GET A CLOSE-UP SHOT WORTH A FORTUNE!

RADIO THE COAST GUARD-- QUICKLY!

SOMEBODY DO SOMETHING!

DON'T GET HYSTERICAL. YOU'LL PANIC THE OTHERS!

WHAT IF IT DECIDES TO SINK THE SHIP?!

WHY DON'T THEY INCREASE THE SPEED AND GET US OUT OF HERE!

THAT THING ISN'T REAL! I HEAR THERE'S A MOVIE OUTFIT ON LOCATION THAT'S SHOOTING A SCIENCE FICTION FILM!

IT FRIGHTENS ME, HARRY!! PLEASE HEAD BACK FOR SHORE!

THE WATERS SOON CLOSE OVER ESON. HE VANISHES **BENEATH** THE SEA WITHOUT A DISTURBING RIPPLE. HIS MOUNTAINOUS BULK GLIDES FORWARD INTO THE DEEPS-- AND INTO THE DOMAIN OF THE DEVIANTS...

MILES AHEAD LIE THE RUINS OF ANCIENT LEMURIA-- A PROUD AND CRUEL CIVILIZATION WHICH FELL BEFORE THE **WRATH** OF THE SPACE GODS...

DESPITE THIS DEFEAT IN A BYGONE AGE, THE **DEVIANT** SPECIES HAS SURVIVED. ONE OF THEIR UNDERSEA CRAFT CRUISES BEYOND THE RUINS TO THEIR HIDDEN CITY...

THE CRAFT EMERGES IN A MAZE OF CANALS AND BIZARRE STRUCTURES WHICH RIVAL **ANY** MODERN HUMAN CITY IN COMPLEXITY...

PRIDE HAS NOT BEEN LOST HERE, AND CRUELTY IS AT ITS ZENITH-- FOR GREAT TODE AND HIS RULING FAMILY STILL ENJOY THEIR FAVORITE SPECTATOR SPORT: THE COMBAT TO THE DEATH!!

LET THESE PROCEEDINGS *BEGIN!*

MORE THAN MERE DEATH GAMES, THIS IS BUT ANOTHER FORM OF ELIMINATION OF THE UNDESIRABLE MUTATES THAT SPRING FROM THE DEVIANTS' UNSTABLE ATOMIC STRUCTURE...

THIS EVENT IS DEDICATED TO YOU, MY DEAR THENA! TO LURE AN ETERNAL FROM HER MOUNTAIN-TOP TO THESE REGIONS IS AN OCCASION INDEED!

I AM NOT PLEASED, GREAT TODE! THIS IS ANYTHING BUT A FAIR MATCH!

ER-- FORGIVE HER, GREAT TODE! SHE CANNOT JUDGE THESE AFFAIRS BY OUR STANDARDS!

ENOUGH, THENA! ENOUGH!

BEGIN! BEGIN!

THE REJECT TURNS TO HIS FOE! BUT HIS DEATH WILL BE SWIFT!

I SHALL SPEAK MY THOUGHTS, KRO!!

DON'T UNDERRATE THE REJECT! HE IS A VETERAN OF THESE GAMES! HIS CHANCES ARE GOOD!

THIS UGLY SOCIETY HAS, FOR THE FIRST TIME, PRODUCED A DEVIANT OF HANDSOME VISAGE -- YET, OUT OF ENVY, IT STAMPS HIM AS A REJECT--AND NOW SACRIFICES HIM TO THAT MUTATED MONSTER!!

AGAINST THAT THING YOU CALL KARKAS!? NEVER!!

RROWRRR!!

IT'S DESTROYED ITS KEEPERS LIKE RAG TOYS --AND WRECKED THE ARENA!!

LOOK! KARKAS MAKES READY TO CHARGE!

THE REJECT IS ABOUT TO DIE!

YOU *WASTE* YOUR SYMPATHIES ON AN *OUTCAST*, SWEET ETERNAL!

*FOOLS!* HE'S THE ONLY THING OF BEAUTY IN THIS *UGLY* DOMAIN!

*THENA!* SIT DOWN! WE CAN DO *NOTHING!!*

LET THE COMBAT *PROCEED!* THE REJECT CAN *DEFEND* HIMSELF!

BUT *NOT* FOR LONG! HAHAHA!

THE REJECT IS FEARLESS! HE STRIKES AT KARKAS LIKE AN ENRAGED GNAT!! AND WITH EACH STING OF HIS WEAPON HE SCORES A TELLING WOUND!!

TZOW!

THEN, BEFORE AN ASTONISHED AUDIENCE, THE MONSTER SPEAKS!!

YOU'RE LIKE THEM--YOU HURT KARKAS! WHY!?

WONDER OF WONDERS! THAT MONSTROUS MUTATE CAN *THINK!!*

A-AND--*TALK!!*

KARKAS FINALLY DOES WHAT THE REJECT HAS BEEN WAITING FOR! WITH A ROAR THAT SHAKES THE ARENA, KARKAS CHARGES!!

FWAMM!!

THIS IS THE END FOR THE REJECT!

HE HAS ONLY ONE CARTRIDGE IN THAT POWER-ROD!!

THE REJECT HUSBANDS HIS SHOTS! HE FIRES SHORT BUT TELLING BURSTS AT KARKAS' FACE AND LEGS...

AAAAAAA!!

KARKAS IS UNABLE TO SEE -- UNABLE TO STAND!! WHEN HE FALLS, THE ARENA ROCKS AS IF FROM AN EARTH TREMOR!!

WOOOMM!!

AT THAT MOMENT, THE REJECT'S EYES BLAZE AND HIS JAWS DISTEND LIKE A CARNIVORE AT THE KILL!! A SNARL ESCAPES HIS LIPS!! HE RUSHES TOWARD HIS STRICKEN FOE!!

THE REJECT LEAPS UPON HIS VICTIM AND RELEASES THE LAST, MOST POWERFUL BOLT LEFT TO HIM!!

POW!!

KARKAS SCREAMS AND GROWS SILENT...

HE'S DONE IT!

H-HE'S FINISHED KARKAS!

BUT THE KILLING FRENZY IS UPON REJECT! COMBAT IS THE ONLY LIFE HE KNOWS! THERE IS TRIUMPH ONLY AS LONG AS IT CONTINUES! IT MUST GO ON -- AND ON -- AND ON...

BAM! BAM!

STOP, REJECT!! THE COMBAT'S AT AN END!!

THE REJECT CANNOT STOP! HE TURNS ON THE ARENA GUARDS...

YOU HEARD THE ORDER! PUT DOWN YOUR WEAPON!!

DO AS YOU'RE TOLD OR--

--WE'LL SHOOT!

HE WON'T OBEY! LOOK OUT!!

WHAT ARE YOU IDIOTS WAITING FOR!!?? SHOOT HIM DOWN!!

SHOOT!! SHOO--!!

KRAK!

THEN, THE REJECT IS UPON THEM-- USING EVERY REFLEX... EVERY TRICK THAT LIFE IN THE ARENA HAS TAUGHT HIM!

WAM!

UGH!

THE SURPRISED GUARDS ARE HURLED IN EVERY DIRECTION! ONE FIRES HIS WEAPON AS IT IS TURNED UPON HIMSELF!!

TZOM!

WE CAN'T STOP HIM! WE'RE NO MATCH FOR HIM!

UKK--!

CALL FOR REINFORCEMENTS --QUICKLY!!!

THE REJECT IS NOT ALARMED! HE IS IN HIS NATURAL ELEMENT!! WITH A WEAPON RIPPED FROM A FALLEN GUARD, HE MEETS THE NEW DANGERS...

KILL HIM!

HE'S RUN AMOK!!

POW!

POW!

IN HIS HANDS, A WEAPON BECOMES AN ARTFUL INSTRUMENT THAT PLAYS A DEADLY OVERTURE...

KRAK!

POW POW PO

WITH UNERRING FLIGHT, EACH SHOT FINDS ITS TARGET!! THE NEW ATTACKERS ARE SHORTLY ADDED TO THE LIST OF CASUALTIES!

WAM! WAM! WAM! WAM!

MORE GUARDS ARRIVE! THEY FLANK THE REJECT AND RUSH HIM FROM EITHER SIDE!!

HOLD HIM! HE'S AS STRONG AS A BULL!

GOT HIM!

TO HOLD THE REJECT IS IMPOSSIBLE! HE IS A KILLING MACHINE THAT REACTS TO EACH NEW MOVE WITH PRECISE TIMING-- WITH PRECISE FORCE!!

AAAGGHHH!!

PRESSING HIS REMAINING ATTACKER AGAINST THE WALL, THE REJECT TURNS HIS TRAPPER INTO THE TRAPPED! THEN, A MIGHTY ARM SWEEPS BACKWARD TO GAIN MOMENTUM...

NO! NO!!

THE ENSUING BLOW STRIKES LIKE A HAMMER...

KRAASSH!

A GRIM HUSH FALLS UPON THE ARENA. THE ROYAL COURT SURVEYS THE CARNAGE IN DISMAY! THEY HAVE WITNESSED A SLAUGHTER-- BUT WITH TOTALLY UNEXPECTED RESULTS!

THE REJECT SLOWLY ADVANCES TOWARD THEM. HIS FEET TOUCH THE FLOOR LIKE THOSE OF A STALKING TIGER!!

HE LEAPS AT THEM -- AND STRIKES FIRE! A PROTECTIVE ENERGY SCREEN FLARES INTO ACTION SEARS HIM TO HIS MARROW!

AAAAA--!!

KRRAACK!

WHEN IT CLEARS...

H-HE'S A DESTROYER!

THERE'S YOUR POOR LITTLE SACRIFICIAL LAMB, THENA! WHAT DO YOU THINK OF HIM NOW!?

I HATE YOU! I HATE YOU!!

I'LL KILL YOU ALL!! YOU'LL SEE! YOU'LL SEE!!

BE THAT AS IT MAY, HE IS LIVING EVIDENCE THAT DEVIANT GENES HAVE SOMEHOW REACHED AN *IMPROVED* LEVEL OF *CHANGE*!!

POOR CREATURE! THE LOT OF AN *OUTCAST* HAS ROBBED HIM OF ANY *WORTHY* EMOTIONS!! I-I PITY HIM.

*SUDDENLY, GREAT TODE SPEAKS...*

*SILENCE!* THE REJECT CAN NO LONGER BE ALLOWED TO LIVE!

HAVE HIM *DESTROYED*, KRO!

I'LL SEE TO IT, SIRE!

*KRO NEVER CARRIES OUT THE ORDER!! THE ARENA IS JOLTED BY A TREMOR OF EARTHQUAKE PROPORTION!!*

WHA--! HELP!

THENA--!

WOM

*WOM WOM WOM WOM WOM WOM!!!*

LISTEN! THEY'RE FIRING OUR PROTECTIVE WEAPONS SYSTEM! THE CITY IS UNDER ATTACK!

*IN THE SEA OUTSIDE, THE FEET OF ESON BETRAY HIS GIANT PRESENCE...*

WOM WOM WOM WOM!!!

THE TREMENDOUS POWER UNLEASHED AGAINST HIM DOES LITTLE TO DISTURB HIM--ESON KNOWS POWER WELL!

HE DRAWS IT TO HIM AND DRAINS THE WEAPONS SYSTEM...

EMPTYING THE CITY OF POWER IS ALSO A SIMPLE TASK. GLOWING, UNDULATING WAVES OF ENERGY RISE FROM EVERY STRUCTURE AND VANISH SEAWARD...

IN THE ARENA, THE ANIMAL INSTINCTS OF THE REJECT RELAY STRANGE MESSAGES... SOMEHOW, HE SENSES THAT THE ENERGY BARRIER WHICH SEPERATES HIM FROM HIS ENEMIES IS GONE!!

THE REJECT CAUTIOUSLY EXTENDS HIS HAND. IT PAUSES WHERE THE BARRIER SHOULD BE. THEN IT MOVES AHEAD, PIERCING DEAD SPACE AND NOTHING MORE...

HE IS NOW FREE TO WIPE OUT THE OBJECTS OF HIS BURNING HATE!! HE MOVES MENACINGLY FORWARD!!

WOW!

ANYTHING CAN HAPPEN NEXT!! EVERYTHING HAPPENS NEXT!!!

STAND BY FOR "MOTHER"

THE ETERNALS

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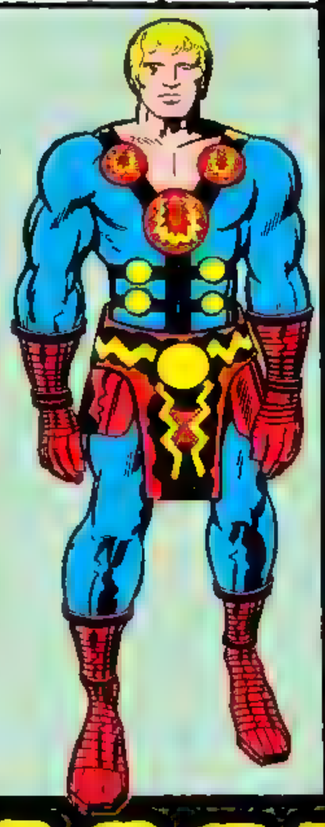
# WHEN GODS WALK THE EARTH!

# THE ETERNALS™

## THE CITY THAT DIED TWICE!



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## DOOM THREATENS THE DOMAIN OF THE DEVIANTS!

Strange events have exposed a startling fact, kept alive through the centuries only by myth and superstition—man is not alone on the evolutionary chain!! He has shared the planet with two species unknown to him! Now, in a sudden burst of violence, the Deviants have risen from their domain beneath the sea to challenge all humanity!! But mankind has unexpected allies—

# Stan Lee PRESENTS: THE ETERNALS!™

EDITED, WRITTEN AND DRAWN BY **JACK KIRBY** • INKED & LETTERED BY **MIKE ROYER** • COLORED BY **GLYNIS WEIN** • CONSULTING EDITOR **ARCHIE GOODWIN**

THE RETURN OF THE **SPACE GODS** OF THE ANCIENT INCAS HAS BROUGHT FROM HIDING TWO SPECIES OF MAN, LONG ALIENATED FROM HUMANS. THE **ETERNALS** ARE IMMORTAL AND WONDROUS IN NATURE ...THE **DEVIANTS** ARE THE UNSTABLE, HOSTILE DEMONS OF THE PAST, AND A SINISTER PRESENCE IN OUR TIMES! **YOU WILL NOW SEE THEM ALL!!**--AND AMONG THEM IS THE **REJECT!**--HANDSOME!--HOMICIDAL!--A TOWER OF **HATRED** IN SEARCH OF SOMEONE HE'S NEVER KNOWN! ...

## "NOTHER!"

FALL BACK, DEVIANTS!!

A GIANT SPACE GOD HAS COME AMONG US!

HE'S **CRUSHED** OUR OUTER WEAPONS SYSTEM WITH HIS MIGHTY HAND!

ABANDON THIS PERIMETER!

DRIVEN INTO THE ATLANTIC DEPTHS AFTER A **COSMIC** WAR WITH THE SPACE GODS, A ONCE POWERFUL SPECIES OF MAN HAS REBUILT UPON THE ASHES OF ANCIENT LEMURIA. THE **DEVIANTS** HAVE NOT FORGOTTEN THAT WAR. THEY'VE SPENT THE AGES BENEATH THE SEA, FORGING **FORMIDABLE** WEAPONS, IN PREPARATION FOR THE RETURN OF THEIR ENEMY FROM SPACE! **NOW, ONE OF THEM HAS COME--A MARAUDING BEAR AMONG SWARMING GNATS!!**

CURSE THE *CELESTIAL!* HE'S MADE A *RUIN* OF EQUIPMENT THAT COULD STOP A *MIGHTY* TASK FORCE!

POW POW!

THIS IS WEAPON STATION ONE! THE SPACE GOD HAS *BROKEN THROUGH* OUR DEFENSES! WE ARE FORCED TO FALL BACK TO *SECONDARY* POSITIONS!

THESE *SMALLER* WEAPONS ARE USELESS! *USELESS!!*

THANKS TO A *FORCE FIELD,* THE COLLAPSE OF THIS STATION WILL *NOT* BRING THE OCEAN WATERS IN UPON US!

IT COULDN'T KEEP *HIM* OUT! THE SPACE GODS MOVE IN A *MYSTERIOUS* MANNER WHICH *DEFIES* ALL BARRIERS TO THEIR PROGRESS!!

ESON, OF THE FOURTH HOST, CARES **LITTLE** FOR THE THOUGHTS OR FEARS OF THE DEVIANTS. HE KNOWS FULL WELL THAT THEY CARE LITTLE FOR EACH OTHER. THIS KIND HAS BEEN SPAWNED BEFORE, ON A THOUSAND PLANETS! THEY--LIKE THESE--**RAGED** IN VAIN WHEN THE FOURTH HOST SET DOWN IN THEIR MIDST FOR THE **FIFTY YEAR JUDGEMENT**...

WUMM!

TLUMM!

THAT LEVIATHAN *DOESN'T* REACT! *WE CAN'T BRING HIM DOWN!*

*KEEP FIRING!!*

WAM! WAM!

AT THE ENTRANCE TO THE CAVE WHICH LEADS TO THE **HIDDEN** CITY OF THE DEVIANTS, NAVAL WARCRAFT ENGAGE THE CELESTIAL IN A **FRUITLESS** ATTACK!!

A LONG NATURAL PASSAGE LIES BEFORE ESON. BEYOND IT LIES THE NEW LEMURA, RISEN LIKE AN UGLY PHOENIX. HE WOULD **SEE** IT AND KNOW ITS DIMENSIONS--IT IS PART OF THE SEA.

FOR, IS NOT THIS SEA AND ALL THAT LIES WITHIN IT, TO SUBMIT TO HIS SCRUTINY? ESON'S **CYCLOPEAN** HAND MOVES TOWARD THE TUNNEL. IT BEARS IN ITS PALM A UNIVERSAL EYE FROM WHICH NOTHING CAN HIDE...

**WHAT IS THERE THAT ESON CANNOT SEE?! WHAT IS THERE THAT ESON CANNOT REACH? WHERE ARE THE LIMITS TO ONE WHOSE **ENTIRE** BODY HAS EVOLVED TO ACCOMPLISH **COSMIC** TASKS...**

**AT THE OTHER END OF THE PASSAGE LEMURIA LIES OPEN AND **WAITING...**

**SUDDENLY, ESON'S HAND BREAKS INTO **FULL** VIEW OF THE CITY. THE CANAL SYSTEM CRACKS UNDER THE IMPACT, AND ITS WATERS ARE **RELEASED** IN RACING TIDES...**

**THE GIANT FINGERS TENSE AND FLEX ABOVE THE CITY, AND SEND WHAT THEY ABSORB **THROUGHOUT** ESON! THUS HE LEARNS ABOUT LEMURIA, IN A FLASH, WHAT ITS GREATEST MINDS HAVE **YET** TO FATHOM...**

THE GIANT HAND SOON SINKS OUT OF SIGHT, BUT THE **EFFECTS** OF ITS INVASION TURN THE CITY STREETS INTO **SURGING** RIVERS...

WE ARE BESET BY A **FLOOD!** THE CANAL WALLS MUST HAVE BROKEN!

H-HOW DID THIS HAPPEN!?

IT WAS A HAND! **A GIANT HAND!** --TOWERING ABOVE THE CITY LIKE A **COLOSSUS!**

**HELP! HELP!**

AS THE WATERS BEGIN TO LEVEL OFF, **RELIEF** VESSELS RUSH SPEEDILY TO THE SCENE OF DAMAGE, BUT THE DEVIANTS ARE IN THE GRIP OF SHOCK AND **CHAOS**...

DON'T PANIC! DON'T PANIC! THE SITUATION IS UNDER CONTROL!

SCROUNDRELS! THEY LEAVE **US** TO RESCUE **OURSELVES!**

IT IS THE DEVIANT WAY! THE COMMONER IS EXPENDABLE! IT IS THE STRUCTURE AND THOSE WHO RULE IT THAT MUST BE SAVED!

**EMERGENCY DIVISION** IS DOING **ALL** IT CAN, COMMISSIONER!

TRY **HARDER,** DOLT! THE FLOOD HAS REACHED THE PALACE!

THE GREAT TODE AND HIS ROYAL FAMILY SHALL BE **SPARED** ANY FEAR OR DISCOMFORT! EVERY **POSSIBLE** AID HAS BEEN DISPATCHED!

I HOPE YOU INCLUDED **ASSAULT TROOPS!** THERE'S SOME SORT OF **DEVILTRY** HAPPENING IN THE ROYAL COMBAT ARENA! AND OUR RULERS ARE **THERE,** IN ATTENDANCE!

MEANWHILE, ESON, THE CELESTIAL, HAS **LEFT** LEMURIA AND GLIDES LIKE A MAMMOTH PHANTOM THROUGH THE DEEPS. FOR THE NEXT FIFTY YEARS IT WILL BE HIS **PERSONAL** DOMAIN...

AS FOR HIS **BROTHERS** OF THE FOURTH HOST, THEY, TOO, BEGIN TO MAKE THEIR PRESENCE KNOWN. **HARGEN** LOOMS LIKE A MONUMENT IN THE TYROLEAN ALPS!

AROUSE THE TOWN! EVERYONE MUST SEE THIS!

I-IT'S **UNBELIEVABLE!** H-HE MUST BE **TWO THOUSAND** FEET TALL!

W-WHERE DOES HE **COME** FROM?

TELEVISION CREWS HAVE **ALREADY** BEEN FLOWN TO THE AUSTRALIAN OUTLANDS. THE GIANT IMAGE OF **ONEG** IS NOW ON VIDEO TAPE...

DON'T GET **TOO** CLOSE, LADS! HE'S AN **OUTER SPACER,** FOR SURE!

HE DOESN'T MAKE A SOUND -- **CAN'T** GET A THING ON THIS MIKE!

**NEZARR** IS FOUND BY A "MIG" PATROL IN THE SIBERIAN WILDERNESS. THEY HAVE VERIFIED WHAT HAS STARTLED THE GENERALS IN THE "WAR ROOM" OF THE HIGH COMMAND...

THERE HE IS-! THE PHOTOGRAPHS DID NOT LIE!

**TAKE NO OFFENSIVE ACTION!!** WE'LL MAKE A FEW PASSES AND SEE IF HE SHOWS ANY SIGNS OF **HOSTILITY!**

IT IS IN THE MOUNTAIN-TOP CITY OF **OLYMPIA,** A HOME OF THE ETERNALS, THAT THE CELESTIAL VISITORS ARE MORE **ACCURATELY** ASSESSED...

THE **SPACE GODS** ARE FORAGING FAR FROM THEIR BASE IN THE ANDES, **DOMO!** THEIR OPERATION IS SPREADING ACROSS THE **WORLD...**

DOES THE **"LINK-UP"** DEVICE TELL YOU MORE, **GREAT ZURAS?**

ALTHOUGH THE MINDS OF ETERNALS ARE WONDERS *WITHOUT* EQUAL, THE *"LINK-UP"* CAN ENABLE US TO MAKE MORE INTIMATE CONTACT WITH THOSE OF *INTER-GALACTIC* ORIGIN!

THE CELESTIALS REPRESENT POWER *BEYOND* MEASURE. THEIR THOUGHTS DO *NOT* YIELD TO COMMUNICATION *EASILY!!*

NOW I SHALL REACH OUT TO THEIR *VESSEL* IN ORBIT ABOVE THE EARTH!

I CAN SEE IT, DOMO-- THE THING IS OF A SIZE TO BLOT OUT THE MOON!

*ONCE STIMULATED BY THE "LINK-UP", THE MIND OF THE ELDEST ETERNAL DWARFS ALL OTHERS ON EARTH. IT PENETRATES THE HULL OF THE GARGANTUAN CRAFT--AND MAKES **SUDDEN CONTACT!!***

GREAT ZURAS! W-WHAT IS IT, SIRE!? YOU L-LOOK *STRICKEN!!*

NO! *NO!* *NO!*

*ZURAS IS SEIZED BY VIOLENT TREMORS! THE "LINK-UP" **BLAZES** WITH A DAZZLING BRIGHTNESS THAT RESULTS IN A TERRIFYING BACKLASH OF **SHOCKING** STRENGTH! IT ROCKS BOTH ETERNALS TO THEIR VERY CORE!*

STAND ASIDE, DOMO!

--OR IT MAY--!

TH-THE "LINK-UP" IS UNDER SIEGE BY AN INCREDIBLE *MIND-THRUST!*

THE BIZARRE REACTION SUDDENLY DIMINISHES IN STRENGTH AND CONTACT IS BROKEN...

I-IT IS *DONE*, DOMO. I'VE *NO* FURTHER NEED FOR THE "LINK-UP"!

BUT, YOU *MUST* TELL ME, SIRE!! WHA-?

*WHAT, INDEED!* WHAT HAVE THE DARK AND VAST STRETCHES OF THE UNIVERSE SPAWNED AND SHELTERED AND NURTURED AND GROWN IN THAT *UNTHINKABLE* TIME BEFORE OUR PLANET WAS FORMED--

GOOD GRACIOUS!

IT IS *IMPOSSIBLE* TO CONCEIVE OF A MIND THAT COULD VISIBLY SHAKE THE *PRIME ETERNAL!* YET, IT IS UP THERE--IN THE *CRAFT* OF THE SPACE GODS!

HE IS DESIGNATED THE "*ONE ABOVE ALL*"! MOST LIKELY THE CELESTIAL NAME FOR *COMMANDER OF THE FOURTH HOST!*

THE MISSION OF THIS HOST IS TO FULFILL WHAT THESE CELESTIALS TERM AS A *FIFTY YEAR JUDGMENT*, AND WHAT WE ARE WITNESSING NOW IS THE *BEGINNING* OF THIS WORK!

I TELL YOU, DOMO, THAT THE RESULTS OF THIS MAY *NOT* BE TO OUR LIKING--

FIFTY YEARS IS BUT A *BRIEF* MOMENT IN THE LIFE OF AN ETERNAL! IF CATASTROPHE IS *IMMINENT*, WE MUST ACT WITH ALL DUE *HASTE*--

--ELSE, WE *SHIRK* AN ENORMOUS RESPONSIBILITY!

THAT MUST *NEVER* BE SAID OF ETERNALS! ACTIVATE THE *UNIFIER!!*

*URGED ON BY ZURAS, HIS FAITHFUL ASISTANT RUSHES OFF TO HIS GRAVE DUTY...*

THE UNIFIER HAS BEEN *SILENT* SINCE THE DAYS OF THE GREAT FLOOD! WOE TO MAN THAT IT MUST SOUND *AGAIN!*

GO THEN!

OFF TO YOUR TASK!

SOON, AT THE MOST COMPLEX INSTRUMENT EVER PRODUCED ON EARTH...

THE UNIT GROWS ACTIVE! IT BEGINS TO HUM WITH RISING FORCE...

RRMMMMMM

THUS, A NEW TIME OF TRIAL ENTERS OUR LIVES!

AN OPENING APPEARS AND THE UNIFIER, LONG OUT OF SIGHT, RISES INTO VIEW. IT IS A TECHNOLOGICAL AID WHICH DOES WHAT WAS ONCE AN ABILITY OF ZURAS ALONE...

THE CALL GOES OUT ACROSS THE PLANET. ETERNALS EVERYWHERE MUST RESPOND TO IT!

AS IN ANCIENT TIMES, THERE WILL BE A MASS GATHERING!

THROUGHOUT OLYMPIA, THE CALL BREAKS ALL PREOCCUPATION WITH LESSER THOUGHTS...

I-IT IS THE CALL! IT SOUNDS AFTER CENTURIES OF SILENCE!

GREAT ZURAS HAS NEED OF ALL ETERNALS!

A BAD OMEN, INDEED!

WE COME, ZURAS!

DAYS OF FEAR LIE BEFORE US! I CAN SENSE IT!!

THE CALL IS ALSO HEARD BY THOSE NEWLY RETURNED IN OLYMPIA...

TO THE ALERT, IKARIS! OPEN YOUR MIND TO MORE IMPORTANT CHANNELS!

YES, IKARIS! DON'T SPANK HIM ANYMORE!

THAT'S NOT WHAT MAKARRI MEANT, MARGO.

HE HEARS THE CALL AS DO I! WHAT A PITY THAT IT SOUNDS AT SUCH A GRATIFYING MOMENT!

GRATIFYING FOR YOU-- OPPORTUNE FOR ME!!

YOU'VE GIVEN THE *BRAT* HIS DUE, IKARIS! I'M CERTAIN THAT *SPRITE* HAS LEARNED HIS LESSON!

H-HE'S ONLY A *BOY!* EVEN *YOUNG* ETERNALS LOVE TO PLAY PRANKS!

HIS HEAD *GLOWS* ONCE AGAIN! I WONDER WHAT HE'LL CONJURE UP *THIS* TIME!

*SUDDENLY--!*

*UGH!* IS THERE NO END TO HIS *WEIRD* IMAGINATION?!

I *WARN* YOU-- IF YOU DON'T RELEASE ME, I'LL TURN INTO SOME-THING MORE *HORRIBLE!*

*FLY THEN!* ANSWER THE CALL AS WE ALL MUST! BUT, HAVE A CARE, IF YOU DECIDE TO HARASS IKARIS AND HIS FRIENDS AT SOME OTHER TIME!

*FEAR NOT!* I SHALL *REMEMBER* THIS INDIGNITY!

THUS, I *DEFY* YOU, IKARIS! YOU'RE A BRUTISH LOUT!-- THE *ROOT* CAUSE OF GENERATION GAPS!

THAT YOUNG SCAMP IS IN *SORE* NEED OF *FURTHER* DISCIPLINE!!

*AGREED!* PRAY THAT TIME TEACHES HIM *GREATER* WISDOM!

IT SEEMS THAT MAKARRI AND I CHOSE A *POOR* TIME TO SHOW YOU OLYMPIA, MARGO--

--YOU'VE BEEN *FRIGHTENED* BY MONSTROUS IMAGES-- AND NOW, MUST BE SUBJECT TO THE *CALL!*

*YOUNG* PEOPLE LIKE SPRITE ARE *ALWAYS* EXCITING!

HE'S NOT YOUNG IN HUMAN TERMS, MARGO! ONE OF YOUR WRITERS, NAMED SHAKESPEARE, INCLUDED SPRITE IN ONE OF HIS PLAYS!

BUT, THAT WAS DURING A TIME WHEN HUMANS AND ETERNALS WERE *STILL* SEPARATED BY FANTASY -- NOW WE MUST SHARE THE *SAME* FATE!

DOES THIS MEAN THAT THE CALL IS MEANT FOR *ME* AS WELL?

IT MEANS THAT YOU ARE *WELCOME* TO JOIN US AND THE OTHERS!

ALTHOUGH ITS SOUND IS *DENIED* TO HUMANS, THE CALL WILL BE HEARD BY ETERNALS *EVERYWHERE* --

--BY ETERNALS LIKE *SERSI* -- WHO LIVE IN *HUMAN* CITIES --

LET'S NOT FORGET THOSE LIKE *THENA* -- WHO TAKE *FOOLISH* TRIPS!

I-I SEE --

SOMEHOW, THE *STRANGE* FASCINATION THAT LURES HER TO *KRO*, THE DEVIANT GENERAL, HAS BROUGHT HER MISFORTUNE IN AGES PAST!

SHE IS WITH HIM *NOW*, AMONG THE DEVIANTS! I WONDER HOW SHE *FARES*?

*AT THAT MOMENT, IN THE CITY BENEATH THE SEA, THENA LOOKS **SQUARELY** INTO THE FACE OF **DANGER**...*

*AND, IT IS A STRANGE **DECEPTIVE** FACE! WREATHED IN SHADOWS AND SET ON A WELL-SHAPED MUSCULAR BODY, THE FACE OF **DEATH** DRAWS NEARER!*

SAVE US FROM THE REJECT!

HE'LL KILL US ALL!

SEND FOR MORE GUARDS! HE'S DESTROYED THE OTHERS!

HURRY!

YOUR COMBAT ARENA *FAILS* TO BE AMUSING WHEN IT BEGINS TO *INVOLVE* THE SPECTATORS, KRO!

YOU DEVIANTS HAVE YOURSELVES TO BLAME FOR THIS! THE POOR THING WAS TRAINED TO KILL... AND NOW HE CAN'T STOP!

YOUR WORDS WON'T STOP HIM! FIND SAFETY, THENA! I'LL TRY TO HOLD HIM OFF!

KRO'S BRAVE GESTURE IS NEVER COMPLETED. THE REJECT IS UPON HIM WITH UNCANNY SWIFTNESS...

I HATE YOU! I HATE YOU ALL!

UGH!

SUDDENLY, THE ARENA IS ILLUMINATED BY A POWERFUL BLINDING FLASH OF ENERGY WHICH HURLS THE TWO APART!!

WHA--!?

SPRRAAKK!

THE REJECT LIES SHAKEN AND PUZZLED BY THIS UNEXPECTED RESISTANCE! HIS INSTINCTS TELL HIM THAT THE FEMALE IS THE CAUSE OF WHAT HAPPENED! FROM HIS VERY FIRST GLIMPSE OF HER AMONG THE ASSEMBLAGE OF DEVIANTS, HE HAS SENSED A HIDDEN STRENGTH BEHIND HER COOL SELF-ASSURANCE!

RAGE SEIZES HIM ONCE MORE! HE ATTEMPTS TO RISE BUT ANOTHER BURST OF POWER CUTS HIM SHORT...

WAM!

THE REJECT GROWS **LIVID** WITH ANGER! A SAVAGE SNARL ESCAPES HIS LIPS! HE LEAPS LIKE A TIGER AT THE FEMALE WHO **DEFIES** THE ONSLAUGHT OF THIS **UNBEATEN** VETERAN OF THE ARENA...

THEN, HE RUNS HEADLONG INTO THE **STRONGEST** OF THE ENERGY BLASTS!

FFTTAAAMM!

THAT **STUNNED** HIM FOR CERTAIN! HE HAS **YET** TO LEARN RESPECT FOR THE DAUGHTER OF GREAT ZURAS!

--AND FOR ALL **OTHER** LIFE AS WELL!

WE DEVIANTS HAVE BRED HIM SINCE **CHILDHOOD** FOR THE ARENA! HE **CANNOT** CHANGE!

AND SO YOU WOULD **DESTROY** HIM! WHAT A **CRUEL** FATE FOR ONE OF TENDER YEARS AND **FAIR** VISAGE!

IT'S HIS **ONE** VIRTUE! HE IS LIVING PROOF THE DEVIANT GENE HAS FINALLY **STOPPED** PRODUCING MONSTROSITIES!

THE FAULT LIES **NOT** WITH YOUR MONSTROSITIES, BUT WITH **YOURSELVES**, KRO. WERE THE DEVIANTS TO EXERCISE THEIR NOBLER QUALITIES, THEY WOULD **SHED** THE "SELF-HATRED" WHICH PLAGUES THEM!

THESE NOBLE QUALITIES EXIST IN **YOU**, KRO! THEY BID MIGHTILY FOR **EXPRESSION!**

PERHAPS SO, THENA! PERHAPS, WHEN I REACH FOR YOUR-- **APPROVAL**-- I-I **FIND** THESE THINGS YOU SPEAK OF--

THAT'S A **POSSIBILITY!** THE CELESTIALS GROW MORE ACTIVE! THUS, I MUST **LEAVE**, KRO!

**LET THE SPACE GODS EMPTY THIS WORLD-- AND LEAVE BUT YOU AND I!**

NO, THENA--STAY! WE NEED TIME! IF WE PART THIS MOMENT--WE MAY LOSE EACH OTHER FOREVER!

TIME HAS BEEN TAKEN FROM OUR HANDS--! I HAVE HEARD THE CALL, KRO!

GREAT ZURAS SOUNDS THE MENTAL KLAXON ONCE MORE, EH?

CURSE THE MEDDLING CELESTIALS! THEY HAVE CAUSED THIS!

NO ETERNAL CAN FAIL TO ANSWER THE CALL! I--I MUST RETURN TO OLYMPIA...

IF WE FACE TRIAL WITH THE SPACE GODS, LET US DO SO IN WAYS THEY MUST HONOR!

HAHAHAHAH--! NO INSTRUMENT WAS EVER MADE THAT COULD FIND HONOR AMONG THE DEVIANTS! HAHAHAH!!

GREAT ZURAS!

WHA--!?

IT'S THE MONSTER CALLED KARKAS!

I SUFFER FROM DEEP WOUNDS, KRO! BUT I LIVE! I LIVE TO LAUGH AT LOFTY WORDS SPUN BY THOSE WHO JUDGE OTHERS!

I THOUGHT HIM TO BE SLAIN IN COMBAT WITH THE REJECT!

THENA STEPS CLOSE TO KARKAS WITHOUT FEAR...

Y-YOU THINK! YOU FEEL! YOU SPEAK WITH GREAT SENSITIVITY!

I-I FIND THIS AMAZING IN ONE SO-- DIFFERENT!

THANK YOU, MY LADY-- FOR NOT CALLING ME-- MONSTER!

YET, THE DEVIANTS WILL HAVE ME SLAIN BECAUSE I WAS BORN OF THEM! --A "MUTATE EMBARRASSMENT!" --AN OUTRAGE OF THEIR STANDARDS!

IS THIS AN ISSUE YOU PLEAD? WHAT IS IT THAT YOU WANT OF ME?

CAREFUL, THENA!

I SEEK *SANCTUARY*, MY LADY! A PLACE TO SPEND MY LIFE IN *FRUITFUL* PURSUITS!

YOU'LL GET WHAT YOU'RE *FIT* FOR, MONSTER! YOUR PLACE IS IN THE COMBAT ARENA--TO FIGHT--OR *DIE*!!

KRAK!

ONCE MORE THE REJECT ARISES TO VENT HIS ANGER AGAINST THE DEVIANT OPPRESSORS! THEY ARE **SIMPLE** TO DESTROY!! BUT THIS FEMALE IS **NOT** LIKE THE OTHERS...

HAVE A CARE, FOOLISH YOUTH! STRIKE OUT--TO YOUR *SORROW*!!

YOU-YOU SAT WITH *THEM*! YOU SAT WITH THOSE WHO WOULD WATCH ME *DIE* IN THE ARENA!

THE REJECT BOILS WITH THE KILLING FRENZY. YET, HE IS **WARY** OF THENA'S POWER--AND WHAT IS MOST FRUSTRATING TO HIM IS THE EVIDENT **COMPASSION** REFLECTED IN HER EYES. IT IS YET ANOTHER POWER THAT **STAYS** HIS CLENCHING FINGERS...

W-WHAT *ARE* YOU!? *W-WHO* ARE YOU!?

INDECISION ALMOST TEARS THE REJECT ASUNDER. FOR THE **FIRST** TIME IN HIS LIFE, HE CANNOT STRIKE DOWN HIS PREY! INSTEAD, HE RECOILS, ALMOST IN FEAR, AS THENA REACHES OUT WITH A **TENDER** TOUCH...

NO! *NO!*

*SANCTUARY*, MY LADY! SANCTUARY FOR *THAT* POOR CREATURE *TOO*!

REMEMBER YOUR OWN WORDS! "*THE FAULT LIES **NOT** WITH THE MONSTERS!*" WE ARE "*MADE!*"-- ***NOT*** "BORN" THIS WAY...

THEN, LET US FIND OUT IF THIS IS SO!

HAHAHA! ETERNALS MUST TAKE THE SAME RISKS THEY OFFER TO THE DEVIANTS! WE ARE NOW YOUR MONSTERS, MY LADY!

I ACCEPT YOU BOTH! I GIVE YOU THE PROTECTION OF OLYMPIA AND THE DAUGHTER OF GREAT ZURAS!

THE REJECT CAN HARDLY BELIEVE WHAT IS HAPPENING. HE IS OFFERED LIFE INSTEAD OF DEATH. HE'S GIVEN AFFECTION FROM AUTHORITY--WHEN IT HAS ALWAYS SHOWN CONTEMPT...

COME! I HAVE GIVEN MY WORD AND SHALL KEEP IT! COME AND LEARN THE WAYS OF THE ETERNALS.

I-I--!

THEN, AS KRO RECOVERS...

FAREWELL, KRO!

I LEAVE FOR OLYMPIA --WITH MY WARDS!

THENA! WHAT ARE YOU DOING!? THIS IS MADNESS!!

IN THE MANNER OF GREAT ZURAS HIMSELF, THENA AND HER CHARGES VANISH FROM THE CITY OF TOADS IN ONE MIGHTY FLASH OF ENERGY...

NO—!

THENA-- COME BACK!

SZOF!

KRO'S SHOUTS ARE BOOMING ECHOS IN THE EMPTY ARENA. HE IS UNMINDFUL OF THE FLOOD WATERS SEEPING IN FROM ABOVE...

THENA! THENA!!

THE CANAL FLOOD IS INUNDATING THE PALACE OF THE RULING FAMILY, BUT KRO HAS LOST MORE THAN THE REST...

THENA-A-A-A—!

NEXT!!!

ON YOUR MARK! GET SET!! ACTION WITH THE SPACE GODS!

DON'T FAIL TO READ...

THE RUSSIANS ARE COMING

THE ETERNALS

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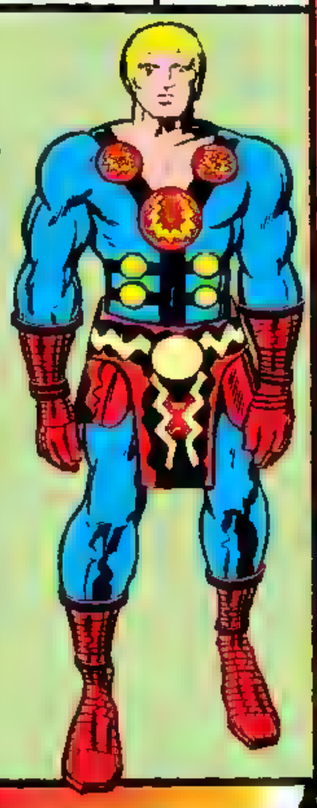

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# MARVEL® COMICS GROUP

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## WHEN GODS WALK THE EARTH!

# THE ETERNALS™

SPECIAL! SEE THE INCREDIBLE WRATH OF IKARIS the ETERNAL!

THEIR ATTACK ON THE SPACE GOD WAS NATURAL! THE RESULT WAS HORRIBLY UNNATURAL! -READ- "THE RUSSIANS ARE COMING!!"

Strange events have exposed a startling fact, kept alive through the centuries only by myth and superstition—man is not alone on the evolutionary chain!! He has shared the planet with two species unknown to him! Now, in a sudden burst of violence, the Deviants have risen from their domain beneath the sea to challenge all humanity!! But mankind has unexpected allies—

# Stan Lee PRESENTS: THE ETERNALS!™

EDITED, WRITTEN, AND DRAWN BY **JACK KIRBY** INKED AND LETTERED BY **MIKE ROYER**

**THIS IS WHAT HAS HAPPENED:** GIANTS HAVE COME FROM SPACE TO BEGIN A FIFTY YEAR JUDGEMENT OF ALL THAT LIVES ON EARTH! THEY PROWL THE PLANET...THEY PROBE THE OCEANS...THEIR AWESOME VESSEL ORBITS **ABOVE US** LIKE A COSMIC SENTRY..

**THIS IS WHAT IS HAPPENING:** HUMANS EVERYWHERE ARE REACTING TO THIS--AND MORE!! WE SHARE OUR PLANET WITH TWO **FANTASTIC** SPECIES--THE IMMORTAL **ETERNALS** AND THE SCHEMING **DEVIANTS** WHO MUST FACE THIS **WITH** US!

**THIS IS WHAT IS GOING TO HAPPEN: HUMANS WILL STRIKE FIRST!!**

## THE RUSSIANS ARE COMING!

ZURAS CALLS AND BIDS YOU ALL TO ANSWER!

EVEN AS THE HUMANS AND THE DEVIANTS --WE ARE FACED WITH THE RETURN OF THE SPACE GODS!

GATHER, ETERNALS!

COLORED BY GLYNIS WEIN

ADMIRED BY A. GOODWIN

ON THE CREST OF A GREAT MOUNTAIN, WHERE THE FABULOUS CITY OF **OLYMPIA** IS SITUATED, ZURAS, THE OLDEST OF THE ETERNALS, HAS ISSUED THE **CALL!** IT IS A MEASURE ABANDONED SINCE THE DAYS OF THE PLANETARY FLOOD. IT IS A SUMMONS HEARD BY ALL ETERNALS, EVERYWHERE. THE MEANING OF IT LIES IN A RITUAL IN WHICH ALL ETERNALS **UNITE** THEIR MINDS AS **ONE**...

WE ARE AMONG THE ***EARLY*** ARRIVALS--

--BUT, THE CITY IS FAST BURGEONING WITH NEWCOMERS!

IT IS BEST ***NOT*** TO BE CAUGHT IN THE PRESS OF THE OTHERS.

TO ***LEVITATE*** NOW, IS TO GAIN A MOMENT OF FINE SOARING BEFORE WE BECOME ***ONE*** WITH ZURAS!

***LET THE RITUAL BEGIN, O' ETERNALS!***

LET US BECOME AS CELLS IN ***ONE*** BODY!

--AND LET THIS BODY ***FUSE*** OUR THOUGHTS IN THE MIGHTY UNION WHICH WE KNOW AS THE ***UNI-MIND!***

WHEN THE UNI-MIND DISSOLVES, WE WILL HAVE AN ***ANSWER*** TO THE SPACE GODS!

MEANWHILE, OLYMPIA BEGINS TO SWARM WITH ETERNALS WHO HAVE LAID ASIDE THEIR INDIVIDUAL PURSUITS ALL ACROSS THE GLOBE...

THE SUN SHINES IN UNTROUBLED SKIES! YET, ZURAS ENTERTAINS DARK VISIONS! CAN AGE BE STIMULATING HIS FEARS?

DISASTERS HAPPEN AT THE MOST INOPPORTUNE TIMES!

AGREED, LADY. I WAS AT A PARTY IN LONDON.

I'D RATHER MEDITATE-- THAN MINGLE WITH SILLY HUMANS!

BUT A HUMAN IS PRESENT IN THE GATHERING CROWD. MARGO DAMIAN FEELS AWED BY THESE OLYMPIAN SURROUNDINGS...

NERVOUS, MARGO?

I-I SUPPOSE I AM, IKARIS! ALL THIS IS JUST TOO FAR OUT!

HANG LOOSE, GIRL. YOU'RE WELCOME HERE!

MAKARRI IS RIGHT. WE ETERNALS HAVE DISPORTED OURSELVES IN YOUR CITIES FOR CENTURIES! IT'S TIME TO OPEN OUR OWN DOORS TO HUMANS!

I-IT'S ALL SO DISCONCERTING. MANY OF THESE PEOPLE SEEM TO POP OUT OF NOWHERE!

WHAT THEY'RE ACTUALLY DOING IS "POPPING IN" FROM SOMEWHERE! IT'S A FACULTY WE'VE DEVELOPED -- LIKE LEVITATION.

THERE! SEE THE LIGHT FORMING? SOMEONE'S ARRIVING NOW!

SAY! THAT MUST BE--

--KINGO SUNEN! I'D KNOW HIS SAMURAI SILHOUETTE ANYWHERE!

POOF!

HAIL, IKARIS! I SEE THAT YOU AND MAKARRI HAVE NOT YET NEGLECTED BEAUTY IN THIS GRAVE HOUR!

NOR HAVE YOU THE SWORD, KINGO!

BE AS ONE WITH GREAT ZURAS!

WHAT'S WRONG, MARGO? YOU LOOK PUZZLED!

ETERNALS ARE AS VARIED AS HUMANS, YOU KNOW. KINGO'S CITY IS ON A MOUNTAIN ON THE ISLAND OF HOKKAIDO!

Y-YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND! I'VE SEEN HIM BEFORE—! HE'S A FAMOUS JAPANESE MOVIE STAR!

THAT'S TRUE! KINGO LOVES NOTHING BETTER THAN PORTRAYING SAMURAIS!

--AND WHO CAN DO IT MORE ACCURATELY, I ASK YOU?!

HE WAS A WITNESS TO THE REAL THING IN SIXTEENTH-CENTURY JAPAN!

IKARIS! MARGO! MAKARRI--! WAIT FOR US, YOU THREE MUSKETEERS!

WELL, LOOK WHO JUST POPPED IN FROM THE BIG APPLE!

HER VOICE IS MUSICAL. THE JOY OF LIVING IS EVER-PRESENT IN HER LAUGHTER. SERSI, THE ETERNAL, APPEARS WITH A HESITANT GUEST IN TOW...

I'VE BROUGHT ANOTHER TOURIST TO OLYMPIA!!

THE UNI-MIND RITUAL SHOULD BE AN EYE-OPENER FOR A PROFESSOR OF ANTHROPOLOGY!

I-I DO SUPPOSE SO...! HELLO, EVERYBODY.

PROFESSOR HOLDEN SEEMS A BIT SHAKEN UP BY OUR *MODE* OF TRAVEL, SERSI!

*FEATHER-BRAIN!* YOU *DIDN'T* BRIEF HIM, DID YOU! POPPING OUT OF NEW YORK WITH HIM WAS PROBABLY A BARREL OF LAUGHS TO *YOU!*

I'D *NEVER* HAVE MISSED THAT LOOK OF *SURPRISE* ON SAM'S FACE FOR THE WORLD!

*HEH HEH!* I-IT'S QUITE AN EXPERIENCE-- SPANNING ALL THAT DISTANCE IN THE *TWINKLING* OF AN EYE!

I'LL *BET!*

THE TIME IS AT HAND FOR HUMANS TO FAMILIARIZE THEMSELVES WITH OUR WAYS. *COME!* ZURAS AND THE UNI-MIND *AWAIT* US!

YOU SHOW MUCH MORE CONCERN THAN YOUR *ICE-BOUND* FAMILY, IKARIS. I SEE NONE OF *THEM* HERE!

*FORGET* THEM!

THE *POLAR MOUNTAIN* ETERNALS HAVE ALL HEARD THE CALL! THEY *WON'T* FAIL GREAT ZURAS!

I-I DON'T REMEMBER YOU *EVER* MENTIONING YOUR *RELATIVES.*

IKARIS IS THE *BEST* OF THOSE BOORS. AND I WOULDN'T RATE *HIM* AMONG THE TOP TEN MOST POPULAR MALES!

ALAS, THE *BLEAK* NORTH DOES *NOT* BREED GENTLE HEARTS. THE POLAR ETERNALS ARE WHERE THUNDER ROLLS AND LIGHTNING RIDES THE SKY--!

YES! MARGO WOULD GET QUITE A *JOLT* IF SHE KNEW WHERE YOUR *BULLY-BOYS* ARE!!

*AT THAT VERY MOMENT, IN A WAR-ROOM OF THE KREMLIN--!*

WE HAVE SPARED YOU NOTHING, COMRADE SECRETARY! THOSE *PHOTOGRAPHS* SHOULD PROVE *CONVINCING--!*

WHAT I HAVE SEEN IS-- *INCREDIBLE,* COMRADE GENERAL!

I DO NOT DOUBT THAT THESE ARE *AUTHENTIC!* YET, THIS INSCRUTABLE GIANT SHOWN HERE *DEFIES* BELIEVABILITY!

THAT GIANT WALKS *UNOPPOSED* IN THE SIBERIAN WILDERNESS! LUCKY FOR US, HE'S *STILL* IN A THINLY POPULATED AREA. WE CAN *STOP* HIM THERE!

IS *DESTROY* THE *ONLY* WORD IN YOUR VOCABULARY? THAT IS A *BEING* FROM OUTER SPACE! HE IS A MATTER FOR OUR THINKERS AND SCIENTISTS!

ALWAYS THE VOICE OF *MODERATION*, EH, *VULCANIN?* I OFTEN WONDER HOW YOU ROSE IN RANK!

AS A VOICE OF MODERATION, *GRESHKOV!!* I DO AS WELL AS ANY *HOTHEAD!*

VULCANIN HAS A POINT, COMRADE GENERAL! THAT THING SHOWS *NO* SIGN OF HOSTILITY! IT MOVES, BUT DOES *NOT* DAMAGE--

*IT IS THERE! IT IS ON RUSSIAN SOIL--! OUR SOIL!*

*WOULD YOU SEEK A PASSPORT--TO SET FOOT ON MARS?* COME NOW, GRESHKOV! WE'RE DEALING WITH AN ALIEN -- BUT HE IS *NOT* OF THIS WORLD!

ALL THE *MORE* REASON TO *KILL* HIM! WE MUST LET HIS COMPANIONS KNOW THAT *WE ARE NOT FOR THE TAKING!*

BUT, OF COURSE, YOU BELIEVE MY REASONING TO BE *HIGHLY* EMOTIONAL!!

THE AMERICANS WOULD CALL IT "*SHOOTING FROM THE HIP!*"

VERY WELL! WE SHALL SEE WHAT *YOU* CALL IT!

*ACTIVATE THE LARGE SCREEN!*

*GRESHKOV! THIS IS NOT THE WAY!*

WHAT IS PROJECTED ON THE HUGE SCREEN JARS EVERYONE PRESENT IN THE WAR-ROOM! EACH MAN KNOWS THAT THIS IS TELEVISED LIVE FROM THE FIELD! HE SEES NEZZAR OF THE FOURTH HOST AS HE TRULY STANDS!--2000 FEET OF MYSTERY!--MOUNTAINOUS!--MAN-LIKE!--EXPLOSIVE TO THE SENSES!!

ASTOUNDING! FRIGHTENING—!! HIS VERY SIZE IS A POWER TO RECKON WITH!

YOU'RE MAD, VOLCANIN! DO YOU ACTUALLY FEEL THAT WE CAN NEGOTIATE WITH SUCH A THING!?

DID NOT THE LITTLE PEOPLE DEAL WITH GULLIVER?

THERE YOU HAVE IT, COMRADE SECRETARY! VULCANIN WOULD USE A FOLK TALE APPROACH--TO DEAL WITH--THAT!!

HE IS AN OVERWHELMING SIGHT, GRESHKOV! I CAN NOW UNDERSTAND HOW YOU FEEL!

THE REPORT MUST BE GIVEN TO THE *RULING* PRESIDIUM. THEY MUST *ALSO* BE SHOWN THESE TELEVISED PICTURES!

LET'S NOT WASTE TIME! YOU *KNOW* THE DECISION IS IN *YOUR* HANDS!

YES, THE BOMBS ARE *WAITING* IN THEIR SILOS! THEY ARE GRESHKOV'S ANSWER TO *KNOTTY* PROBLEMS!

*ENOUGH, VULCANIN! CURIOSITY KILLS! POWER TRIUMPHS! WE MUST USE POWER!*

AGAINST *WHAT?!* HAVE YOU GIVEN A THOUGHT TO *THAT?*

*YES,* I'VE THOUGHT ABOUT IT! THIS KIND OF PROVOCATION *CANNOT* BE TOLERATED!! *WE MUST ACT AS A NATION OF POWER!*

IT'S FINE TO BE PROUD -- BUT IT'S ALSO *DANGEROUS!* I ASK YOU TO RECONSIDER -- TO *TRY* COMMUNICATION!!

THAT MAY PROVE *IMPOSSIBLE!* AS FIRST SECRETARY OF THE PRESIDIUM, I PLACE *FULL* AUTHORITY FOR IMMEDIATE ACTION IN THE HANDS OF *GENERAL GRESHKOV!*

THEN, THE DECISION IS *MADE!* ACTION IS WHAT YOU SHALL *GET!*

I AM NO LONGER NEEDED HERE. THERE IS A *PRESSING* APPOINTMENT...

*GENERAL VULCANIN LEAVES THE HIGH-LEVEL CONFERENCE SOON AFTER...*

YOUR *AIDES* ARE WAITING IN THE NEXT ROOM, GENERAL.

CALL MY PILOT! TELL HIM TO *STAND-BY* FOR TAKE-OFF!

C.C.C.P.

*TWO OFFICERS* JOIN THE DEPARTURE AS VULCANIN STRIDES *TRUCULENTLY* FROM THE BUILDING...

YOU LOOK LIKE YOU'VE *LOST* ONE OF YOUR MEDALS, GENERAL!

WHAT WAS LOST IN IN THERE WAS OF *GREATER* CONSEQUENCE!

THAT'S TOO BAD!

MOMENTS LATER, THE HELICOPTER CARRYING THE GENERAL AND HIS AIDES LIFTS OFF AND VANISHES TOWARD THE DISTANT HORIZON...

HUMAN FOOLS! THEY CAN ONLY SEE A PROBLEM IN HUMAN TERMS!

WE SHALL NOT ESCAPE THIS PROBLEM! I BELIEVE IT AWAITS US IN OLYMPIA AS WELL!

FASTER! WE'RE NEEDED ELSE-WHERE!

TRUE! LET'S PUT AN END TO THIS RIDICULOUS ILLUSION AND BECOME AS WE REALLY ARE!

TO OBEY THE ALL-FATHER IS TO FOLLOW WISDOM!

THEN, I FIND IT WISER TO LEVITATE THIS TINKER TOY THAN PLAY WITH ITS MECHANICAL RESPONSES!

--AND BETTER TO BE VALKIN, OF THE POLAR MOUNTAINS, THAN HOLD HIGH RANK IN A HUMAN MILITARY MACHINE!

I DON'T SUPPOSE THAT YOU AGREE, DRUIG!

TO BE A SON OF VALKIN IS HONOR, INDEED...

HOWEVER, I AM NOT DISPLEASED WITH MY LOT AS A MAJOR IN THE KGB...

SLY TORTURER! YOU LOVE THE FOUL WORK! YOU REVEL IN THE SHAPING OF PLOTS AND THE TRAINING OF ASSASSINS!

THIS IS A WASTE OF WORDS, AGINAR! WE SERVE AS RUSSIANS TO DISCOURAGE THE FOLLY OF ATOMIC CONFRONTATIONS!

THOUGH... I CANNOT BOAST OF MY SKILLS THIS DAY!

THEY SHALL STILL BE OF HELP IN OLYMPIA, SIRE!

TRANSPORT THIS CRAFT, ZARIN! WE JOIN THE UNI-MIND!

DONE, SIRE!

FWOF!

IT TAKES BUT A MICRO-SECOND TO COMPLETE THE TRIP TO OLYMPIA . . .

THE SUN GLOWS **WARMLY** IN THESE REGIONS. THE ETERNALS OF ZURAS ARE PRONE TO THE **SLOTH** INDUCED BY ITS RAYS!

A BLAST OF **COLD** WIND WOULD **QUICKLY** JOLT THEM FROM THEIR MEDITATIONS!

SUDDENLY--!

**CAREFUL**, BROTHERS! WE ARE BESET BY **IDIOTS!**

**WOMP!**

**CLEAR THE WAY**, YOU LEVITATORS!

THE ARROGANCE IS **FAMILIAR**-- BUT THE FACES ARE IN **DEEP FREEZE!**

THEY CAN ONLY BE OUR **POLAR** COUSINS! IT IS SAID THAT THEY RUN WITH THE STORM AND PLAY WITH RUSSIAN JUNK!

THEY'RE LANDING, BROTHERS. PERHAPS THEY'LL PLAY WITH **US!**

THE DELPHAN BROTHERS BID YOU WELCOME--WITH **THESE!**

THEY'RE USED IN **SPORT** AND KNOWN TO **WARM** THE BONES!

COME OUT! WE WISH TO **FLATTEN** YOUR NOSES INTO MORE **PLEASING** SHAPES!

OLYMPIA RESOUNDS WITH ALL MANNER OF **DULL** ECHOES!

CAN IT BE THAT I HEAR THE **BLEATING** OF SHEEP?

IF YOU FEEL LIKE A **LION**, COME AND **BARE** YOUR TEETH!

DONE !!

**KRAK!**

IT IS A **BRISK** MOMENT FOR FISTIC-FANATICS AND STORMY PETRELS... ETERNALS, PROVING THAT THEY ARE BUT **ANOTHER** SPECIES OF **MAN**...

UGH!

ZOK!

YOU'VE GOT A **GLASS** JAW-- **COUSIN!**

**STAND ASIDE,** DELPHANS! --I'LL SOON **FELL** THIS OX!

POW!

**WATCHING PATIENTLY, WITH CONFIDENCE IN THE MIGHT OF HIS BROOD, VALKIN WAITS FOR THE SKIRMISH TO SPEND ITS FURY...**

YOU'RE A **COOL** ONE, DRUIG!

ARE TENSIONS ***UNKNOWN*** TO YOUR KIND!?

I ***IGNORE*** TENSION AS I DO THE NEED FOR ***HORSE-PLAY!***

AND, I'VE NEGLECTED ***YOU,*** DRUIG! I HAVE ALLOWED OUR INVOLVEMENT WITH HUMANS TO ***MOLD*** YOUR CHARACTER!

IF YOU SEEK THE ***HERO*** IN ME, ALL-FATHER, LOOK THEN -- FROM ***OTHER*** VIEWS!

YOU'VE BEEN ***INFLUENCED*** BY THE ***WORST*** OF THEIR INSTINCTS!

SHALL WE *EVER* SEE EACH OTHER AS *FATHER AND SON?*

--IN *WORD.* --IN *DUTY.* BUT, ALAS, NOT IN *VISION!*

PATIENCE, FAMILY! THESE *FLOWERS* OF DELPHI ARE *FADING* FAST!

THIS ONE IS IN *FULL* BLOOM! LOOK TO YOUR *THICK* HEAD!

*BUT, BEFORE THE BLOW DESCENDS ON AGINAR . . .*

*WAM!*

REMEMBER THAT WELL!

*OWWW!!*

*CAUTION, BROTHERS!* THERE IS *ANOTHER* IN THE FRAY!

--FOR AGINAR AND ZARIN ARE LUMPS OF *FUTILITY* WITHOUT THE GOOD RIGHT ARM OF *IKARIS!*

*SERSI!* C-CAN YOU *STOP* THIS?!

THEY'D CRY LIKE *BABIES!*

*THE ARRIVAL OF IKARIS SERVES TO ANIMATE THE TIRING COMBATANTS...*

THE *FLAB* OF IKARIS WILL AVAIL YOU NOTHING --!

HIS FLAB IS ENOUGH TO *DENT* YOUR SKULLS!

*BAM!*

*POW!*

*SUDDENLY--!*

*TWOFF!*

IT IS VALKIN, RULER OF THE POLAR ETERNALS, WHOSE POWER DECIDES ALL SUCH CONTESTS...

LET THE *LIGHTNING* UNLEASHED BY VALKIN'S HAND BE THE *FINAL* WORD HERE!

VALKIN'S WORD IS *POWERFUL* INDEED!

IT HAS MADE AN ECHO CHAMBER OF MY HEAD!

*PEACE,* GREAT VALKIN! WE *BOW* TO YOUR WILL!

WE DELPHANS *JOIN* IKARIS IN THIS PLEA!

THAT IS A *WISE* CHOICE! IT APPEARS THAT MY FATHER HAS *LOST* HIS BENT FOR MODERATION!

IT'S A *BAD* DAY FOR MODERATION! THE TIME FOR *HARSH* DECISIONS HAS COME!

*UP, IKARIS!* YOUR TRAVELS HAVE DONE *LITTLE* TO IMPROVE YOUR MIND!

YOU SEE ME AS I'VE *ALWAYS* BEEN, UNCLE!

REBUKE HIM NOT, SIRE! HE IS A LION WHOSE TAIL IS *NOT* EASILY TWISTED! IKARIS DOES *HONOR* TO HIS BROTHERS!

WE'D RATHER FIGHT IKARIS THAN *CANNY* DRUIG!

*TRUE!* HIS KIND OF SPORT IS TOO *GRIM* FOR OUR LIKING!

*ENOUGH!* WE END THIS AT *VALKIN'S* WORD!

*BE OFF,* DELPHANS! ZURAS AND THE *UNI-MIND* AWAIT US ALL!

THEY SHALL MAKE US AS *ONE* THIS DAY!

WOULD THAT THE *FATES* GRANT THIS UNION OF MINDS THE POWER TO DEAL WITH THE *SPACE GODS!*

AN AGE OF *GREAT* TRIAL HAS BEGUN!

THE UNI-MIND SHALL BE OUR *GUIDE!*

YES, WE ETERNALS ARE *EQUIPPED* TO SEE THIS THROUGH! BUT, THIS PLANET IS *NOT* OURS ALONE!

THE *HUMANS* MUST MEET THE CHALLENGE OF THE CELESTIALS, AS WELL--AND THEY WILL DO IT-- *WITHOUT* UNDERSTANDING!

*MEANWHILE, IN RUSSIA, A LARGE MISSILE RISES FROM ITS SILO!*

*TAKE COVER! TAKE COVER!*

*THEY'RE ABOUT TO BEGIN THE COUNT-DOWN!*

*GENERAL GRESHKOV IS ABOUT TO APPLY HIS PHILOSOPHY TO THE INTRUSION OF THE UNKNOWN...*

WE ARE *ON TARGET!*

IMPACT SHOULD BE MADE IN *FIVE MINUTES.*

A *FAST* ANSWER TO AN *URGENT* PROBLEM!

*START COUNT-DOWN!*

10-9-8-7-6-5-4-3-2-1 --*WE HAVE IGNITION!!!*

KEEP THE MISSILE IN CONSTANT *FOCUS* AND USE THE *FILTERS* WHEN IT STRIKES!

*THE EYES OF GRESHKOV ARE GLUED TO THE T.V. SCREEN. THEY HAVE **WATCHED** THE ENEMY CRUMBLE BEFORE, BUT THIS TIME, HE SHALL VANISH IN MAN'S **OWN** COSMIC FIRE!!*

IMPACT IS ALMOST AT HAND! AT GROUND ZERO, NEZZAR OF THE FORTH HOST WILL MOMENTARILY BE AT THE CENTER OF A HOLOCAUST FIFTY MILES WIDE!! YET, HE STARES UNDISTURBED, AND IS CALM IN HIS THOUGHTS...

HIS THOUGHTS ARE ALL-ENCOMPASSING, ALL-SATURATING--BLANKETING THE REGIONS BEFORE HIM TO MONITOR EN MASSE THE GROUP MIND OF THE HUMANS. IT IS A SORRY TASK TO BE A JUDGE OF LIFE. A WAVE OF SADNESS OVERTAKES NEZZAR--AND WASHES ACROSS HIS VISAGE IN RIPPLES OF ENERGY...

UNKNOWN TO THE WATCHERS IN THE BUNKER, THE ISSUE OF THE MISSILE HAS BEEN DECIDED LONG BEFORE THE FIRING. THEY SEE THE H-BOMB REACH THE GREAT CELESTIAL--AND SUDDENLY, INEXPLICABLY REVERSE ITS COURSE!!

THE HORROR OF WHAT HAS HAPPENED IS FIRST PRECEDED BY GASPS OF DISBELIEF. EVERY INSTRUMENT IN THE BUNKER RECORDS THE MISSILE'S ASTONISHING FLIGHT WITH UNMISTAKABLE ACCURACY. A DEATHLY SILENCE FALLS UPON THE SHELTERED COMPLEX. NO MAN IS ABLE TO SPEAK...

EVERY EYE IS RIVETED ON THE SWIFTLY GROWING OBJECT ON THE T.V. SCREEN. THE MISSILE IS RETURNING TO ITS SENDERS! IT IS ACTIVE --AND PRIMED TO EXPLODE ON IMPACT!!

IT IS CLOSER NOW!-- LARGER!-- SHOWING ITS SMOOTH STEEL COAT--A DOG OF WAR ABOUT TO DEVOUR THE ENTIRE COMPLEX WITH FIERY JAWS!!

WATCHING IT BEGIN TO FILL THE SCREEN GENERATES UNBEARABLE FEAR!! THERE IS NO TIME TO RUN!! NO TIME TO RUN!

DEATH IS UPON THEM!! RELENTLESS, UNSTOPPABLE DEATH!!!

OF COURSE, IT IS ALL ILLUSION... A POWER OF THE SPACE GODS, INITIATED AT THE MOMENT THE RUSSIAN DECISION HAD BEEN MADE! IN REALITY, THE MISSILE HAS NEVER LEFT ITS SILO. IT RESTS HARMLESSLY IN ITS BERTH--STILL WAITING TO BE TRIGGERED--BUT GRESHKOV DOESN'T KNOW THIS. LIKE HIS MEN, HE HAS SUFFERED A MASSIVE CARDIAC ARREST!!!

AS THE CELESTIALS CONTINUE ON IN THEIR MYSTERIOUS WAYS,

**THE ETERNALS MEET THE CHALLENGE WITH A GREAT SPECTACULAR!!**

DON'T MISS--

THE AWESOME RITUAL OF

# UNI-MIND

THE ETERNALS

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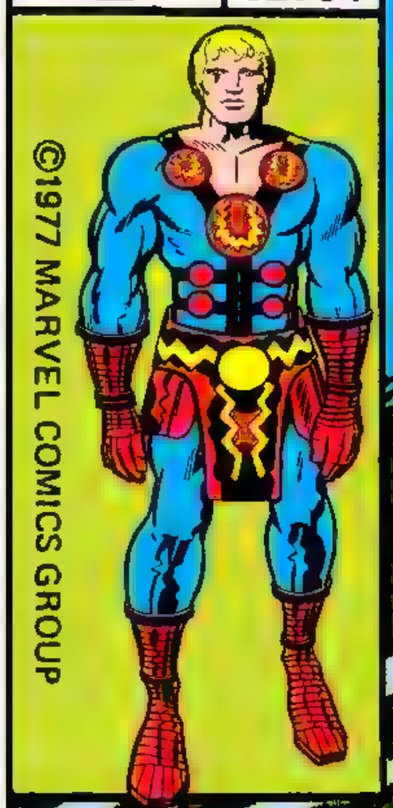

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## WHEN GODS WALK THE EARTH!

# THE ETERNALS™

UNLEASHED THIS ISSUE!

## UNI-MIND!

THE MOST FANTASTIC LIFE FORM OF ALL!

PLUS: AJAX THE ETERNAL BATTLES A DEMON FROM THE PAST!

Strange events have exposed a startling fact, kept alive through the centuries only by myth and superstition—man is not alone on the evolutionary chain!! He has shared the planet with two species unknown to him! Now, in a sudden burst of violence, the Deviants have risen from their domain beneath the sea to challenge all humanity!! But mankind has unexpected allies—

# Stan Lee PRESENTS: THE ETERNALS!™

EDITED, WRITTEN AND DRAWN BY: **JACK KIRBY** / INKED AND LETTERED BY: **MIKE ROYER** / COLORED BY: **GLYNIS WEIN** / MAJOR-DOMOED BY: **ARCHIE GOODWIN**

IN TIMES OF **GLOBAL** CRISIS, THINGS CHANGE IN ALL PLACES. THINGS HAPPEN TO SHOCK AND DISMAY AND SET FEAR TO SEEP INTO THE UNIVERSAL HEART. AS THE RETURN OF THE **SPACE GODS** TO EARTH BEGINS TO **STIR** HUMANS EVERYWHERE, THE MARBLE HALLS OF OLYMPIA, MOUNTAIN-TOP CITY OF THE ETERNALS, SEETHES WITH EVENTS WHICH CAN ONLY BE COPED WITH BY THE STRANGE RITUAL KNOWN AS...

# UNI-MIND!

THESE EYES HAVE ***YET*** TO SEE ONE LIKE IT! THERE ARE APPARITIONS OF SIZE AND SHAPE ***NOT*** TO MY LIKING!

WHAT KIND OF HABITAT CAN HAVE SPAWNED THE ***LARGE*** ONE? HE SEEMS NEITHER HUMAN NOR ETERNAL!

THE CALL TO *UNI-MIND* HAD BROUGHT A HOST OF ***DISTANT*** COUSINS TO OUR ILLUSTRIOUS CITY. BUT, WITNESS THE ***VISITATION*** MATERIALIZING BEFORE US!

Y-YOU DON'T THINK THAT IT MIGHT BE A --

NO! IT CAN'T BE!!

THE NEW ARRIVALS TO OLYMPIA MATERIALIZE IN THE MANNER COMMON TO THE ABILITIES OF ALL ETERNALS. IT IS A BRILLIANT FLASH OF LIGHT, CONTAINING WITHIN ITS GLOWING CENTER THE ASSEMBLING ATOMS OF THE TRAVELLERS...

OUR INSTINCTS DO *NOT* LIE! WE ARE PRIVY TO GUESTS OF AN *UNPRECEDENTED* NATURE!

WHY MINCE WORDS!? CALL THEM WHAT THEY *ARE*!!

*DEVIANTS! DEVIANTS--HERE--IN A CITY OF THE ETERNALS!!*

WHO AMONG US COULD HAVE BEEN SO *RECKLESS* AS TO TRAFFIC WITH *THEIR* KIND?

YES... *WHO* BUT THE DAUGHTER OF GREAT *ZURAS*, HIMSELF!

YOU'RE *RIGHT*! I-IT'S *THENA*! --SHE'S BACK!

OLYMPIA—! --THIS IS A *WELCOME* SIGHT!!

OLYMPIANS FIND *YOU* MOST DISTURBING, *KARKAS*!

THENA! WHAT HAVE YOU *DONE*? WHAT HAVE YOU *BROUGHT* US!?

THESE ARE DAYS OF *WOE*, INDEED!

THE CONFRONTATION ENDURES FOR LONG MOMENTS. THE OLYMPIANS ARE STUNNED... THE DEVIANTS ARE AWED...

WHATEVER POSSESSED HER TO BRING THEM HERE?

THEIR PRESENCE WILL ONLY ADD FUEL TO THE CRISIS BEFORE US!

THAT IS A CERTAINTY!

SPEAK, THENA! THIS MAY MEAN CONFLICT IN OUR PEACEFUL REALM! YOU *OWE* US AN EXPLANATION!

THESE POOR BEINGS SOUGHT *SANCTUARY* FROM OPPRESSION! I *GAVE* IT TO THEM!

SHE *NEEDN'T* EXPLAIN THE *HANDSOME* ONE. I UNDERSTAND!

SO DO *I!*

"*SWEET PRINCE*" MUST HAVE TIRED OF BEATING OFF THOSE *UGLY* DEVIANT FEMALES...

I'LL WAGER THAT HE'LL FIND *CONTENTMENT* IN OLYMPIA!

HE IS A *RARITY* AMONG DEVIANTS, INDEED! BUT HE HAS *YET* TO LEARN THE ART OF ROMANCE!

THEN HE IS *PERFECT* FODDER FOR THE LADIES! --A *GRAND* DIVERSION FROM THE PROBLEMS OF THE MOMENT!

WELCOME TO *SANCTUARY*, SWEET PRINCE!!

AT THAT MOMENT...

CRASH!

KARKAS! WHA—?

HE FEELS HIS *WOUNDS!* OUR ENCOUNTER IN THE ARENA *ALMOST* FINISHED HIM OFF!

*SILENCE,* SAVAGE! I WAS A *WITNESS* TO THE COMBAT!

KARKAS ... YOUR *INTELLECT* FAR *EXCEEDS* YOUR TALENTS AS A MONSTER...

FEAR NOT. I SHALL *SEE* TO YOUR *NEEDS!*

THANK YOU, M'LADY. I-I AM IN YOUR DEBT...

HOW *EXCITING!* THE DEVIANT IS NOT ONLY HANDSOME -- BUT HE *JOUSTS* WITH SINISTER BEHEMOTHS!

HE IS A MALE TO BE RECKON-ED WITH!

SUCH SHOULDERS ... SUCH *ARMS!* HOW *COMFORTING* THEY COULD BE!

HAVE A CARE, LEST THEY CAUSE YOU *GRIEF!* HE IS *NOT* THE PLAYTHING YOU TAKE HIM TO BE!

I MAKE NO PRETENSE OF GENTILITY. MY LIFE HAS BEEN ONE OF KILLING, TO SURVIVE COMBAT IN THE ARENA!

AND YOU DO IT SO *WELL* --DON'T YOU, --*SWEET PRINCE--!*

HOWEVER, SINCE ETERNALS *CANNOT* BE KILLED, YOU PRETTY THINGS HAVE LITTLE TO *WORRY* ABOUT!

BUT, HOLD... WHY THIS *SUDDEN* DEPARTURE?

ER -- GREAT ZURAS *CALLS!*

W-WE MUST *JOIN* THE *UNI-MIND!*

I-I'M SORRY I HAD TO DO THAT. FORGIVE ME... BUT THERE IS NOTHING *FRIVOLOUS* IN YOUR COMING TO OLYMPIA. LEARNING TO *LIVE* MUST PRECEDE YOUR LEARNING TO LOVE!

DOES NOT THE LOVE OF LIFE INCLUDE THE LOVE OF *ALL* THINGS?

DOES IT NOT INCLUDE THE COMPANY OF *FEMALES?*

LOVING IS *CARING!* LOVING IS RESPECT FOR THE *DIGNITY* OF OTHERS! YOU'VE KNOWN *NOTHING* OF THAT, SWEET PRINCE!

*SHOW ME, THEN!* I'VE FOUND *LITTLE* TO CARE FOR YET!

I SHALL! YOU MAY BEGIN WITH *KARKAS!* STAY AT HIS SIDE UNTIL AID ARRIVES. AS MY WARDS, YOU ARE BROTHERS--AND MUST *SHARE* EACH OTHERS MISFORTUNES!

I *CANNOT* SHARE HIS WOUNDS! IF HE SUFFERS, HE MUST DO IT *ALONE!*

IT IS *BLOOD,* NOT TEARS, THAT ONE SHEDS IN THE ARENA! I SHALL *NOT* CRY FOR KARKAS !!

THEN, YOU WILL *LEARN!*

GUARD HIM *WELL!*

HEAR THAT, *"REJECT?" HAHAHAH!*

FORGET YOUR *DEVIANT* WAYS! CONTEMPLATE UPON A NEW LIFE HERE!

I SHALL RETURN WHEN THE *UNI-MIND* RITUAL IS *OVER!*

*THENA LEVITATES AND TAKES TO THE AIR. AHEAD LIES A FAR GREATER PROBLEM THAN THE RE-MAKING OF DEVIANTS...*

*ON, ETERNALS!*

WE *FOLLOW,* THENA! ONWARD TO GREAT ZURAS WHO *AWAITS* US!

MEANTIME, KARKAS AND THE REJECT HAVE BEEN LEFT TO THEMSELVES... WITH THE **DARK** THOUGHTS OF THEIR PAST... AND THE DISTURBING **QUESTION** OF THEIR FUTURE...

***HAHAHAHAH!*** SMILE, SWEET PRINCE! DESTINY PLAYS THE CLOWN WITH BOTH OF US! HERE, I MAY YET BECOME A ***PHILOSOPHER*** OF NOTE!--AND YOU, MASTER KILLER, MAY INHERIT THE BALCONIES AND ROSE GARDENS OF ***FAIR*** YOUNG MAIDENS!!

EASE YOUR BATTLE STANCE! THE SHADOWS HIDE NOTHING BUT **COOL** BREEZES... *THERE ARE NO ENEMIES --IN PARADISE!*

***FOOL!*** IT'S SMALL WONDER THAT YOU FALL PREY TO ***SMALLER*** OPPONENTS!

PARADISE IS JUST ANOTHER ***PLACE!*** --AND EACH PLACE HAS ***CORNERS*** FOR THE WARY EYE TO SCOUR AND SEEK OUT--TO ***CERTIFY*** THE STATE OF THEIR IMPOTENCE!

MEANWHILE, ACROSS THE WORLD, UPON THE TOPMOST HEIGHTS OF THE ANDES MOUNTAINS, A **HUGE** DOME-LIKE STRUCTURE HAS APPEARED ON THE SITE OF **DESOLATE** RUINS, ONCE INHABITED BY THE ANCIENT INCAS...

WITHIN THE DOME ARE LOCKED THE SECRETS OF THE PAST AND THE **TERRIFYING** GHOSTS OF THE FUTURE... AND A TIRED OLD MAN, ADRIFT IN A **TIMELESS** VACUUM...

DOCTOR DAMIAN... AWAKEN, SIR...

OH--IT'S YOU, **AJAK.**

THERE ARE **ENDLESS** ROWS OF INCA TABLETS IN THIS OLD TEMPLE--BUT YOU **CANNOT** DECIPHER THEM ALL WITHIN THE SPAN OF A DAY!

YES...I KNOW--I SHALL HAVE THE NEXT **FIFTY YEARS** TO COMPLETE MY TASK!

WE SHALL **BOTH** REMAIN HERE FOR THAT TIME. IT IS THE WILL OF THE **SPACE GODS,** WHO BUILT THE DOME!

FIFTY YEARS... IT'S BUT A MERE **MOMENT** FOR AN ETERNAL LIKE YOURSELF! THE PASSING CENTURIES ARE **MEANINGLESS** TO YOUR CALENDAR!

TRUE ENOUGH... YET, IT IS YOU, A **HUMAN,** WHO LABORS WITH **FRANTIC** EFFORT.

YES...I MUST **LEARN** TO BALANCE WORK WITH **REST!**

**SLOW DOWN,** DOCTOR DAMIAN. **YOU** CAN ACCOMPLISH ALL YOU WISH WITHIN THE TIME ALLOTTED TO US!

THAT IS A **WISE** THOUGHT. I WOULD RECOMMEND YOU **APPLY** IT WITH FIRM DECISION!

I WONDER WHAT TIME MEANS TO **HIM!** WHAT IS **HE** DOING WITH IT!?

TIME WEIGHS **HEAVILY** ON HUMANS.

**WHAT IS GOING ON IN THAT GIANT CELESTIAL'S HEAD?**

ON THE ANCIENT CEREMONIAL PYLONS, **ARISHEM**, LEADER OF THE FOURTH CELESTIAL HOST, STANDS, IMMOBILE AS THE MOUNTAINS OUTSIDE THE DOME. YET, ALL THAT MOVES UPON THE EARTH BECOMES MOTION WITHIN HIM... HIS BODY IS **ALIVE** WITH THE PRESSURES AND THE CRACKLINGS CAUSED BY THE MOVEMENT OF THE PLANET ITSELF...

HE STANDS THERE, DAY AFTER PASSING DAY, WITHOUT TWITCHING A FINGER... YET, SOMEHOW--I **KNOW** HE IS ACTIVE... DOING THINGS THAT WILL **CHANGE** OUR WORLD...

THESE THINGS ARE **HAPPENING** EVEN AS WE TALK, DOCTOR DAMIAN. ARISHEM'S HOST IS NOW **ABROAD** UPON THE LAND AND SEA... MAKING ITS PRESENCE KNOWN AND **FELT!**

WELL, **THAT** SHOULD **JOLT** THE SEATS OF THE **MIGHTY!**

I WOULD LIKE TO LOOK AT THE FACE BEHIND THAT GIANT HELMET, AND SEE IF IT WEARS A **SMILE.**

BUT, NO...I THINK ARISHEM IS **ABOVE** THAT SORT OF THING. HIS COMING HAS ALREADY **SHATTERED** OUR CONCEPTS OF HISTORY... AND AS FOR HIS **MISSION**...WELL--

I-I **RETRACT** MY PREVIOUS STATEMENT... I **DON'T** THINK I'D WANT TO SEE HIS FACE AT ALL!

TO DWELL ON HIM IS TO **CHALLENGE** THE COSMOS ITSELF, DAMIAN!

THERE ARE TOO **FEW** DIVERSIONS IN THIS PLACE TO THINK ABOUT ANYTHING **ELSE!**

THE YEARS THAT LIE AHEAD WILL BE LONG AND **LONELY!**

**NOT** SO, DOCTOR! NO PLACE ON EARTH HOLDS MORE POTENTIAL FOR DIVERSITY THAN **THIS** ANCIENT RUIN!

*THE HAND OF AJAK MAKES A **WIDE** SWEEP OF THE CHAMBER. IT POINTS TO WHAT IS SEEN AND **UNSEEN** BY THE EYES OF HIS HUMAN COMPANION...*

THE BUILDING BLOCKS OF MATTER ARE ALL **AROUND** US!--IN THE AIR!--IN THIS **WALL!**

SEE THE IMAGE OF THIS INCA **WRESTLER!** HE SEEMS TO **YEARN** FOR ACTION!

*SUDDENLY, THE VERY AIR BEGINS TO **BUZZ** IN A **GATHERING** OF ATOMS! THEN...*

**BEHOLD,** DOCTOR! OUR WRESTLER **BREAKS** THE BOND OF AGES AND SPARES US NOT A MOMENT OF HESITATION!

**AJAK!** BUT-- **HOW-?**

THIS IS A CHANCE FOR SOME BRISK AND FURIOUS **SPORT!**

*BEFORE DOCTOR DAMIAN CAN MARSHAL HIS SENSES, AJAK **CLOSES** WITH THE FAST-MOVING BULK, WHICH ONLY SECONDS BEFORE HAD BEEN A **FLAT,** LIFELESS IMAGE...*

B-BUT THIS IS **ASTOUNDING!** LOOK OUT, AJAK-!

I AM WELL **PREPARED** FOR THIS!

**BY GUMPTION--! SO YOU ARE!!** YOU HANDLE HIM JUST LIKE A **PROFESSIONAL!**

IT TAKES PRACTICE! AND I'VE HAD **CENTURIES** OF IT!!

AJAK IS A FIGURE OF SUPERB PRECISION. HE CRAFTILY FRUSTRATES EVERY EFFORT OF HIS MOUNTAINOUS OPPONENT TO SECURE A DAMAGING HOLD AND A QUICK VICTORY...

IT'S TIME TO CALL A HALT TO THIS HORSE-PLAY!

AFTER ALL, IT WAS ONLY A DEMONSTRATION!

YOUR ADVERSARY SEEMS TO DISAGREE! HE WON'T STOP UNTIL YOU'VE BEEN SEPARATED FROM YOUR SENSES!

THEN, I MUST RETURN HIM TO HIS FORMER STATE OF TRANQUILITY!

UTILIZING THE AMAZING FACULTY COMMON TO HIS SPECIES, AJAK HURLS APART THE ATOMS WHICH HE SO SKILLFULLY PUT TOGETHER...

BE AS YOU WERE! YOUR WORK IS DONE!

SFUT!

THEN...

THERE, DOCTOR! WITH AN ETERNAL AT YOUR SIDE, ANY THOUGHT THAT ENTERTAINS YOU CAN BECOME ABSORBING REALITY!

"THE GENIE IN THE BOTTLE!" PERHAPS I KNOW NOW HOW THAT LEGEND AROSE!

AT ANY RATE, DOCTOR, YOU NEED NO LONGER EXPERIENCE THE ENDLESS PAIN OF LONELINESS.

THANK YOU, AJAK. BUT, YOU FORGET THAT I'M A FATHER... AND MY THOUGHTS ARE OFTEN WITH MY DAUGHTER.

I WONDER WHERE MARGO IS RIGHT NOW? WHAT IS SHE DOING?

AT THAT MOMENT, IN HIGH OLYMPIA, MARGO DAMIAN HAS BECOME MORE OF A **PARTICIPANT** THAN SPECTATOR IN THE MIRACULOUS LIFE-STYLE OF THE ETERNALS. **LEVITATION,** LONG DENIED TO HUMANS, HAS BEEN GIVEN TO HER AS A SHARED POWER, IN ORDER TO EXPERIENCE THE MOST **FANTASTIC** OF RITUALS: THE **UNI-MIND!**

**IKARIS! I-I'M FRIGHTENED!** GLIDING HUNDREDS OF FEET ABOVE THE GROUND WITHOUT SUPPORT, IS A **TERRIFYING** FEELING--!

**DON'T LEAVE ME! STAY NEARBY!**

KEEP YOUR COURAGE, MARGO! YOU **WON'T** FALL! IT IS THE POWER OF MY MIND WHICH SUPPORTS US **BOTH!**

**RELAX,** MARGO! HE'S **NEVER** DROPPED A GIRL, YET!

--NOR **I,** A MAN, MAKARRI. --ESPECIALLY WHEN THEY'RE SUCH **FINE** SPECIMENS AS MY GOOD FRIEND SAMUEL.

T-THAT'S **V-V-VERY** R-REASSURING, SERSI...

CALLED FROM EVERY CORNER OF THE EARTH BY GREAT **ZURAS**, ELDEST OF THE ETERNALS, THIS SPECIES OF MAN NOW FILLS THE SKY IN A RITUAL FLIGHT, MADE ONLY IN TIMES OF **WORLD STRESS!**

AS AN ANTHROPOLOGIST, YOU WILL FIND THE **FORMING** OF THE UNI-MIND A **RARE** TREAT, HOLDEN!

Y-Y-YES! Y-Y-YES! **TERRIBLY** EXCITING I-IKARIS!

**HAHAHAHAH!** YOU SEEM READY TO PASS OUT FROM THE SHEER **THRILL** OF IT, SAMUEL!

BUT, HANG ON. THERE'S MUCH **MORE** TO COME!

THE **PRELIMINARY** STEP TO UNI-MIND CONTINUES IN THE **GRACEFUL** FLIGHT OF THE MYRIAD ETERNALS, UNTIL...

ALL IS READY! THE MIND AND ESSENCE OF ZURAS REACHES OUT TO YOU! COME TO ZURAS! JOIN WHAT IS ZURAS!

SUDDENLY, A BRILLIANT BLUE FLAME BURSTS FROM ZURAS HIMSELF! IT IS NOT FIRE IN THE ORDINARY SENSE, BUT STEMS FROM THE MIND IN FULL DOMINANCE OVER THE BODY. IT IS ZURAS IN TOTALITY!!--AND BECOMES A SEETHING PRESENCE OF ITS OWN!!

COME!-- COME--AND **JOIN!!**

SO POWERFUL AND **POTENT** IS THE FLAME, THAT IT LASHES OUT IN ONE SOLID, **RAGING** BEAM! --SEEKING -- SEEKING THOSE WHO MUST **HELP** IT SPARK A GREATER CREATION...

**THEN, THEY COME!** -- SWEEPING IN LONG COLUMNS OF GRACEFUL FLIGHT, THE CHILDREN OF ZURAS SHOUT IN JOY AS THEY **ENTER** THE BLUE FLAME AND ARE ONE WITH THE GREATEST OF THEIR SPECIES...

THE FLAME GLOWS BRIGHTER AND **STRONGER** AS EACH ETERNAL PASSES AND VANISHES INTO ITS **HUNGRY** CORE...

LET ALL THAT IS ZURAS BE ***OURS!*** LET ALL THAT IS OURS BECOME THE ***UNI-MIND!***

BUT, FOR THE FIRST TIME IN HISTORY, THERE ARE HUMANS IN THIS ASTRAL PROCESSION . . . CONFUSED AND STARTLED HUMANS . . .

DON'T BALK, SAMUEL! YOU **WON'T** SINGE A BIT! I **PROMISE** YOU!

B-B-BUT, SERSI—! I-I'VE **NEVER** SEEN—!

NO HUMAN HAS **EVER** SEEN THIS! YET, YOU MUST DROWN YOUR FEARS AND **ENTER** THE FLAME!

HE'S RIGHT, SAM! THAT FLAME IS **LIFE,** NOT DEATH! IT IS LIFE AS YOU HAVE NEVER **KNOWN** IT BEFORE!

I-I'M **TRYING** T-TO UNDERSTAND, SERSI! Y-YOU DON'T KNOW HOW **HARD** I'M TRYING—!

W-W-WE'RE GOING INTO IT! T-T-THERE'S N-NO TURNING BACK! DON'T LEAVE ME, SERSI!!

THEN . . .

YIPES!!

WHEN SAMUEL HOLDEN VANISHES INTO THE FLAME, ANOTHER HUMAN FOLLOWS . . .

I-IKARIS--! ARE YOU **SURE** THAT I CAN--??

YOU CAN **DO** IT, MARGO! **HUMANS CAN DO IT!**

GO, MARGO!

COVERING HER EYES AT THE MOMENT OF ENTRY, MARGO DAMIAN BRAVELY GLIDES INTO THE FLAME . . .

HOLD MY HAND, IKARIS! HOLD IT TIGHTLY!

MARGO PASSES THROUGH AND FEELS NO HEAT OR PAIN. THERE IS ONLY A BRIGHT BLINDING FLASH BEFORE SHE CEASES AS ONE, AND BECOMES -- MANY!

TSH!

SOON AFTER, THE VILLAGERS OF A REMOTE COMMUNITY BEYOND THE MOUNTAINS WITNESS THE APPEARANCE OF AN AMAZING PHENOMENON...

HARD TIMES ARE UPON US! --DAYS OF CONFLICT AND WOE!

IT IS AN OMEN!--AN EVIL OMEN!

LOOK! THE MOUNTAINS GLOW, AS THEY DID IN ANCIENT DAYS!

THE STRANGE GLOW INCREASES IN INTENSITY. IT PERMEATES THE NIGHT AND SPANS THE DISTANCES TO THE SEA. IT ADDS ANOTHER MYSTERY TO THE LOGS OF BAFFLED SHIPS...

W-WHAT CAN IT BE, CAPTAIN? I-I'VE NEVER SEEN ANYTHING LIKE IT-!

DON'T GET ANY WILD IDEAS. IT MAY BE A SIDE AFFECT OF WEATHER CONDITIONS!

HIGH ABOVE THE CLOUDS, THE GLOW SEEMS LIKE A RISING BLUE DAWN. BUT, IT IS A DAWN WHICH COMES AT AN UNEXPECTED HOUR...

IT CAN'T BE THE SUN! I THINK ITS SOME FORM OF RADIOACTIVITY!

REPORT IT TO HOME BASE. THEY MAY BE INTERESTED!

BUT HUMAN CONJECTURE **CANNOT** GRAPPLE WITH WHAT IS HAPPENING IN THE MOUNTAINS. THE CONCEPT OF THE **UNI-MIND** IS UNHEARD OF... YET... IT EXISTS AMONG THE ETERNALS! --AND, EVEN AT THIS MOMENT, IS **EMERGING** FROM ITS FIERY SPAWNING GROUND...

IN FULL VIEW IT IS LIKE NO OTHER LIFE-FORM ON EARTH. IT IS A LIVING **GROUP-ORGANISM!** --THE ONLY ONE OF ITS KIND...

THE UNI-MIND LIVES IN THE CLIMATE OF CATASTROPHE. IT **DEFINES** THE NATURE OF CATACLYSMS, AND SEEKS THE PATH TO SURVIVAL. WHEN MANY DIED IN THE TIME OF THE GREAT FLOOD, THE UNI-MIND LIVED...

NOW, IT **BREAKS** THE BONDS OF EARTH AND RISES TO ORBIT...

HERE, **BEYOND** THE PRESSURES OF GRAVITATION AND MAGNETIC FLOW, IT CAN DEAL WITH THE **RETURN** OF THE CELESTIALS FROM SPACE...

BUT, THE SPACE GODS ARE CREATURES OF SPACE AND TIME AND THE FIBER OF **UNKNOWN** EQUATIONS. THE UNI-MIND MUST ATTEMPT TO MASTER ALL OF THESE, **FIRST!**

ON HIS CEREMONIAL PYLONS, IN THE FAR ANDES, MIGHTY **ARISHEM**, KILLER OF PLANETS, STIRS AND PROBES THE DARK HEAVENS. HE **STUDIES** THE UNI-MIND -- IT IS A PRODUCT **WORTHY** OF THIS PUNY WORLD. BUT, IT **CANNOT** SAVE THE EARTH, ONCE HIS DECISION HAS BEEN REACHED!

IF YOU THINK THAT **THIS** IS HEAVY STUFF--**WATCH FOR THE HEAVIEST!** --WITH **ACTION**, YET! KEEP TABS ON THE UNI-MIND, ARISHEM, AND THE...

NEXT ISSUE!!!

ETERNALS ANNUAL

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# THE ETERNALS™

ONLY THENA, KARKAS AND THE REJECT STAND BETWEEN HUMANITY AND A HORDE OF ASSASSINS OUT OF TIME!

A DOUBLE-LENGTH ACTION EPIC!

THREE AGAINST THE TIME-KILLERS!

Strange events have exposed a startling fact, kept alive through the centuries only by myth and superstition—man is not alone on the evolutionary chain!! He has shared the planet with two species unknown to him! Now, in a sudden burst of violence, the Deviants have risen from their domain beneath the sea to challenge all humanity!! But mankind has unexpected allies—

# Stan Lee PRESENTS: THE ETERNALS!™

EDITED, WRITTEN, AND DRAWN BY **JACK KIRBY** • LETTERS N' INKS BY **MIKE ROYER** • COLORED BY **GLYNIS WEIN** • APPRECIATED BY **ARCHIE GOODWIN**

FOR COUNTLESS CENTURIES, **GREAT ZURAS**, PRIME ETERNAL OF **OLYMPIA**, HAS WATCHED THE COURSE OF HUMAN PROGRESS LURCH CONTINUOUSLY BETWEEN **TRIUMPH** AND **DISASTER**... HELD FROM PLUNGING OVER THE BRINK BY THE HIDDEN HANDS OF THE ETERNALS, HUMANITY IS NOW IN A **NEW** ERA--WHEN ITS ANCIENT FRIENDS STAND **REVEALED**--AND ITS ENEMIES, THE **DEVIANTS**, STILL BUSILY SOW THE SEEDS OF **CATASTROPHE**... LIKE--

## THE TIME KILLERS

THAT CREATURE WILL CAUSE ***GREAT*** HAVOC AND GRIEF BEFORE HE'S SUBDUED!

***HOW*** COULD THIS HAVE HAPPENED, FATHER!?

HAS ***NATURE*** SUDDENLY PRODUCED SOME SORT OF ***TIME WARP*** AND ***RELEASED*** THIS ***THROWBACK!?***

THIS IS NOT THE ***FIRST*** SUCH INCIDENT, THENA! I'VE DISCOVERED ***SIMILAR*** APPEARANCES OF THIS KIND--! FRIGHTENING ENCOUNTERS OF GROWING FREQUENCY!

BUT... ***MY*** CONCLUSION ***DIFFERS*** FROM YOURS!

NATURE IS ***INNOCENT*** OF ***THIS*** CRIME! SOMEWHERE AMONG THE HUMANS A ***SINISTER*** FORCE IS AT WORK--EVEN AS IT WAS IN THE DAYS OF DEVIANT ASCENDANCY!

***ZAKKA, THE TOOL-MASTER, STILL LIVES!***

Y-YOU MEAN--***THIS*** IS ZAKKA'S DOING?

OF COURSE YOU DO. THERE'S NO EVENT OF ***ANY*** IMPORTANCE THAT ***ESCAPES*** YOUR CLOSE SCRUTINY!

***I HAVE!***

AND I ASSUME THAT YOU'VE GATHERED ALL THE KNOWN ***FACTS*** BEHIND THIS SITUATION!?

I KNOW THAT THIS ***EVIL*** DEVIANT HAS ***SURVIVED*** THE CENTURIES--***AND*** THE OUTRAGE AGAINST HIS MADNESS FOR ***TAMPERING*** WITH THINGS ***FORBIDDEN!***

I *FEAR* FOR THIS PLANET IF THESE INCIDENTS *SPREAD!* THE HAND OF ZAKKA MUST BE STOPPED -- HIS TALENTS *CONTAINED!*

SAY NO MORE, FATHER. I BELIEVE I'VE GOT THE *MEANS* TO ACCOMPLISH THE TASK!

*SOON AFTER...*

WE WERE *SUMMONED* FOR AN AUDIENCE, THENA?

IT IS AN *HONOR* TO STAND IN THE PRESENCE OF GREAT *ZURAS!*

COME IN, YOU TWO.

SO... THESE ARE THE *LOVABLE* MONSTERS YOU IMPORTED FROM THE *DEVIANT* DOMAIN!*

*BACK IN *ETERNALS* #11. J.K.

*HOLD* YOUR TEMPER, SWEET PRINCE--! GREAT ZURAS *MERELY* JESTS!

JESTS ARE *FEW* IN A LIFE SPENT AT KILLING IN THE ARENA! AM I A *MONSTER* FOR HAVING BEEN BRED TO THIS SPORT?

I'D HATE YOU, IF I DIDN'T HATE THE DEVIANTS *MORE!*

DO YOU UNDER-STAND *NOW,* FATHER?

YES--! WE SHALL FERRET OUT ZAKKA-- WITH HIS *OWN* KIND!

*HAH!* I THOUGHT SO! YOU NEED US FOR SOME *UNMENTIONABLE* TASK OF *DEVIOUS* DESIGN!

YOU *PIOUS* ETERNALS ARE AS EAGER TO EMPLOY THE *ASSASSIN* AS OUR FORMER MASTER!!

*FOR SHAME, SIRE!* TO USE US AS *PAWNS* IN SOME SHODDY VENTURE DOES ILL TO YOUR NOBLE *IMAGE!*

OH, BE STILL, *KARKAS!* TO MEASURE GREAT ZURAS WITH A DEVIANT YARD-STICK IS IGNORANCE AT ITS *ULTIMATE!*

*I GIVE YOU NO ORDER TO KILL!* YOU TWO SHALL CARRY OUT THIS TASK IN A MANNER WHICH YOUR OWN NATURES *DICTATE!*

MEANWHILE, IN THE MODEST QUARTER OF A LARGE AMERICAN CITY, A LANDLADY INTERRUPTS THE WORK OF A MOST UNUSUAL TENANT...

GOOD EVENIN', MISTER ZACHARY. IT'S THAT CERTAIN DAY OF THE MONTH AGAIN. I'VE COME TO COLLECT THE RENT.

MY... DON'T YOU EVER STOP TINKERIN' WITH THOSE FOREIGN CAMERAS OF YOURS?

BLESS YOU FOR YOUR CONCERN, MY DEAR MRS. PAPP! BUT YOU HAVE NO IDEA HOW INTIMATELY MY LIFE AND THIS WORK ARE RELATED!

I SUPPOSE I JUST HAVE A SOFT SPOT FOR SHOW FOLKS! WOULD YOU BE USIN' THIS THING IN ONE OF THEM FLASHY MAGIC ACTS?

AH, YES... MAGIC! OTHERS HAVE CALLED IT SORCERY -- WHEN THERE WAS NO SUCH WORD AS TECHNOLOGY!

THIS, ER, CAMERA IS MY PRIZE POSSESSION! IT NOT ONLY CAPTURES FASCINATING IMAGES, BUT PROJECTS THEM AS WELL!

WHY, THERE'S A HANDSOME DARLIN' OF A MAN! HE LOOKS LIKE AN ACTOR IN ONE OF THEM PERIOD PICTURES!

HE IS AN ACTOR OF ***RARE*** VINTAGE, DEAR. YOUR APPROVAL OF THIS LATEST CHOICE MERITS A GESTURE OF MY ***SINCEREST*** APPRECIATION!

OH...YOU MAGICIANS AND YOUR ***ARTY*** MANNERS!

I KISS YOUR ***DAINTY*** HAND!

I-I'LL COME BACK WHEN YOU'RE NOT BUSY. WE'LL ***SHARE*** OUR STORIES ABOUT SHOW BUSINESS!

WE SHALL MAKE THIS HUMBLE ABODE ***SPARKLE*** WITH TINSEL AND SONG!

***WHEN THE LANDLADY HAS GONE...***

THE PONDEROUS HAG WOULD ***TOPPLE*** IN HER TRACKS, WERE THE ***TRUE*** NATURE OF THE ***ACTOR*** IN THIS ***CAMERA*** MADE KNOWN TO HER!

***HUH!*** THIS CITY SHALL ***SOON*** SEE HIM ***PERFORM!***

I SHALL ***FISH*** HIM FROM HIS OWN TIME AND HAUL HIM INTO ***THIS*** CENTURY! FEAR AND ANGER WILL DO THE ***REST--!***

COME TO ME, ***WARRIOR!*** COME WITHIN RANGE OF MY ***POWERFUL TIME BEAMS!***

***I'VE GOT HIM!*** NOW TO ***REVERSE*** THE BEAM-- AND BRING HIM ***HERE!***

***ZZZT!***

***WELCOME*** TO THIS CENTURY!

***W-WHAT WITCH'S SPELL IS THIS!?***

'OD'S BLOOD! I'VE BEEN SNATCHED TO A DEMON'S PLACE--!!

CRASH!

LOOK OUT! HE'S A LUNATIC !!

HELP! HELP! WE'LL BE KILLED!

**FEAR** AND ANGER DRIVE THE ANCIENT WARRIOR TO **MURDEROUS** FURY. HE SOON GALLOPS INTO THE HEART OF THE CITY, LEAVING **CHAOS** IN HIS WAKE...

THAT NUT IS WRECKING THE TOWN! STOP HIM! **STOP HIM!!**

...AND WATCHING FROM HIS WINDOW ABOVE, ZAKKA MUSES ON HIS HANDIWORK...

THE TOOLS OF ZAKKA ARE **WONDERS** BEYOND MEASURE! IN THE CAUSE OF DEVIANT POWER, I SHALL PLUNGE THE HUMANS INTO A **FRENZY** OF TERROR!

MEANWHILE, IN A LARGE MID-TOWN HOTEL...

HUMAN HABITATS HAVE *TOO* MANY CORNERS--! PLACES FAVORABLE TO A *LURKING* ENEMY!

THEY INSTILL *NO* ANXIETIES IN ME, *REJECT!* I RATHER *LIKE* THIS TRIP!

ALL IS *ILLUSION*, KARKAS! --INCLUDING YOUR *IMAGE!* WE ARE HERE FOR SERIOUS WORK.

THIS WAY, GENTLE-MEN!

WE SHALL *AWAIT* YOUR ORDERS, THENA.

IT IS NOT *I* WHO MAY CALL YOU TO ACTION--BUT THE DANGERS THAT *BROUGHT* US HERE! BE *EVER* ALERT TO THEM!

PROUD AND HAUGHTY THENA! DOES SHE TAKE ME FOR A DROOLING *NOVICE!?*

W-WHAT'S *HE* DOING!?

LOOKING FOR *ENEMIES* IN HIS BED!

SNEER IF YOU LIKE, YOU *DOCTORED* AND DELUDED DINOSAUR! BUT *I* PLAN TO BE *ALIVE* WHEN THIS MAD TASK IS DONE!

LIVE YOU MAY, *KILLER!* BUT IT SHALL ALWAYS BE WITH A *FEAR* OF SHADOWS!

ER--IF YOU GENTLEMEN NEED ANY-THING ELSE, I'LL BE *GLAD* TO HELP...

HE WAITS FOR THE MONETARY *TIP* WHICH THENA SPOKE OF.

WE OWE THE HUMANS *NOTHING!* THEY SHOULD BE IN *OUR* DEBT FOR COMING TO THEIR AID!

SUDDENLY...

HEY! PUT ME DOWN, MISTER!

STOP IT, REJECT! HE KNOWS NOTHING OF OUR MISSION!

HAHAHAH! TAKE A GOOD LOOK AT YOUR RESCUERS, HUMAN!

STOP IT, YOU UGLY FOOL!

HE'LL SOON SEE WHO THE MONSTER IS, KARKAS --AS I DRAW HIM CLOSER TO YOU!

LOOK AT HIM, HUMAN! USE YOUR NATIVE INSTINCT INSTEAD OF YOUR EYES! LOOK DEEPLY--AT THE REAL HORROR!

REJECT! PUT AN END TO THIS!

YOU ARE WISE TO OBEY MY COMMAND! YOU'D BE WISER TO CONTROL YOUR OWN ANIMAL INSTINCTS!

I'M NOT HERE TO PLAY GAMES, THENA.

NEITHER AM I! BUT THE HUMANS HAVE BEEN SUBJECTED TO ZAKKA'S TERROR! THEY NEED NOT SUFFER FROM YOURS!

I AM WHAT I AM! A THING TAUGHT ONLY TO MAKE ITS KILL--AND PREPARE FOR THE NEXT!

IT IS STRENGTH, NOT KINDNESS, WHICH SUSTAINS ME!

WHEN THE FATES FASHIONED BOTH YOU AND KARKAS, THEY FOOLISHLY PUT THE WRONG HEARTS IN EACH BODY!

YOU ARE THE TRUE MONSTER, REJECT!

IF I AM PLEASANT TO GAZE UPON, I HIDE NOTHING FROM THE WORLD! I DO NOT CHOOSE TO BE AN ILLUSION--LIKE KARKAS!

HOLD! WE'VE SPENT TOO MUCH TIME IN IDLE TALK!

THIS INSTRUMENT GIVEN TO ME BY GREAT ZURAS SIGNALS THE PRESENCE OF A MIND ALIEN TO THIS AGE!

HERE... IN THIS HOTEL!? YOUR FATHER JUDGED WELL WHERE THE BLOW WOULD FALL!

BZZZZZTT

ON THE FLOOR ABOVE, A SINISTER FIGURE HAS MADE HIS APPEARANCE. HIS EYES GLOW WITH AN EVIL FLAME AS HE STALKS A KIND OF PREY HE'S ALWAYS BEEN KNOWN TO DESTROY...

THIS PLACE IS FOREIGN TO ME, BUT I SHALL STRIKE NONETHELESS!

A LONG BLADE IS QUICKLY DRAWN FROM HIS CANE...

SHE'S A PERFECT CHOICE FOR JACK THE RIPPER!

THIS METROPOLIS IS TEEMING WITH HER TYPE! I SHALL BE VERY BUSY HERE!

BUT FIRST, TO THE TASK AT HAND! I SHALL FINISH HER WITH SWIFT AND SILENT PRECISION!

NOW! I MUST DO IT-- NOW!!

STRANGE... I-I FEEL AS THOUGH I'M BEING FOLLOWED!

SUDDENLY...

STAY THAT WEAPON!

STOP HIM, REJECT!

GOOD LORD! H-HE WAS GOING TO KILL ME--!

FOOLISH YOUNG DULLARD! THIS ***INTRUSION*** WILL COST YOU YOUR LIFE! YOU'VE ALLOWED MY VICTIM TO ***ESCAPE!***

BUT ***YOU*** WON'T, MASTER MURDERER! YOU CAN BE ***CERTAIN*** OF THAT!

THE REJECT STRIKES OUT WITH DEADLY ACCURACY...

KRAK!

UGH--!

I DID NOT PUT ***KILLING POWER*** BEHIND THAT BLOW, YOU DOG! IT WOULD HAVE ***ENDED*** THIS FIGHT TOO ***SOON*** FOR MY PURPOSE! YOU SHALL DIE ***SLOWLY*** --AND ***HARD!***

NOW... ***TO YOUR FEET!*** MAKE THIS ***PROPER*** COMBAT!

I'LL DO ***MORE*** THAN THAT! I SHALL ***SINK*** THIS BLADE TO THE ***CENTER*** OF THOSE HOLLOW BOASTS!

JACK THE RIPPER IS A ***VENGEFUL*** ENEMY!

THAT WAS ***CLOSE***-- BUT SCARCELY ENOUGH TO DO THE JOB!

YOU'RE A ***POOR*** MATCH FOR ME, RIPPER!

SWISSH

BY ***SATAN!*** I THOUGHT I ***HAD*** YOU!

YOUR KIND IS NOT EVEN WORTHY OF ***CLEANING*** THE ***ARENA*** IN WHICH I'VE FOUGHT!

THE ***DEVIANTS*** WOULD USE YOUR HIDE AS ***FOOD*** FOR THEIR ***CATTLE!***

***CURSE YOU!*** I'LL--!

CURSES *DON'T* WIN BATTLES!

I'VE GOT YOUR *BLADE!* AND NOW I'LL SHOW YOU HOW IT'S USED BY A *VETERAN!*

*SCREAM,* RIPPER! JOIN THE CHORUS OF YOUR VICTIMS! FEEL THE *TERROR* BEFORE DYING!

NO-- NO--!

DON'T KILL HIM, REJECT! WE CAME HERE ONLY TO *FIND* ZAKKA --NOT TO *REVEL* IN THE DEATH OF HIS PAWNS!

I AM *NOT* AN ETERNAL, THENA! *RESTRAINT IS NOT MY WAY--!*

*AS THE SWORD PLUNGES HOME, ITS TARGET VANISHES IN A BURST OF LIGHT...*

TZNOF!

*H-HE'S GONE!*

THERE'S ONLY THIN VAPOR WHERE HE LAY *OPEN* TO MY THRUST!

BY THE PATTERN OF TIME, REJECT!

I'VE BEEN *CHEATED!*

SO... HE *COULDN'T* LAST IN THIS AGE! *TIME'S* PATTERN DOES *NOT* ALLOW THE *PERMANENT* TRANSITION FROM ONE ERA TO ANOTHER!

HOWEVER, ZAKKA'S SUBJECTS *DO* STAY HERE *LONG* ENOUGH TO INFLICT DAMAGE AND *PANIC!*

AT THAT MOMENT...

WHERE IS HE!? WHERE'S THE KILLER?

YOU MUST BE THE GUY WHO **HELPED** THIS YOUNG LADY!

**WHERE** DID HE GO, SON? WE'VE GOT HIS DESCRIPTION! WE'LL **GET** HIM!

HE VANISHED --**TOO** SWIFTLY FOR ME TO FOLLOW! IT WAS AS IF HE'D BEEN **SWALLOWED** IN A PUFF OF SMOKE!

**HUH!** I'M **NOT** SURPRISED--CONSIDERING ALL THE **CRAZY GOINGS ON** LATELY!

I'VE **SEEN** YOUR NEWSPAPERS... THEY'VE **REPORTED** CASES OF THIS KIND.

HEY, SARGE! THIS FLOOR'S BEEN **SCORCHED** BY SOME SORT OF **HEAT!**

DO THE **OTHERS** DISAPPEAR AS QUICKLY? I'VE READ **NO** ACCOUNTS OF ANY ARRESTS BEING MADE!

THEY'RE **REAL** ENOUGH TO KEEP US ON CONSTANT DUTY! BUT, WHEN WE JUMP IN TO MAKE A BUST-- **POOF!** THEY'RE **GONE!!**

PERHAPS THIS CITY IS UNDER ATTACK BY **PHANTOMS!**

IT'S POSSIBLE THAT THESE **STRANGE** INCIDENTS HAVE A **SIMPLE** SOLUTION! DILIGENT EFFORT COULD BRING THEM TO A **SUDDEN** HALT!

LATER...

WE MUST MAKE A *THOROUGH* SEARCH OF THIS HOTEL! I JUST KNOW THAT ZAKKA AND HIS TOOLS ARE SOMEWHERE IN *THIS* PLACE!

BUT *WHERE,* THENA!? THERE ARE A THOUSAND ROOMS HERE! YOU SUGGEST AN OVERWHELMING TASK!

WE KNOW *NOTHING* OF HIS TOOLS OR HOW THEY WORK! PERHAPS THEY ALLOW HIM TO STRIKE FROM A *DISTANCE!*

HE'S *HERE,* I TELL YOU! HIS MALIGNANT MIND REGISTERS CLEARLY ON THIS *PSYCHO-BAND!*

*FOLLOW ME!*

*BUT, KARKAS, WAITING IN RESERVE, IS HOST TO A YOUNG VISITOR AT HIS DOOR...*

HELLO, MISTER. MAY I COME IN AND *PLAY?*

THE HOUR IS RATHER *LATE,* MASTER TRAVELER.

IT SEEMS TO ME THAT YOU'VE SOMEHOW *ELUDED* YOUR GUARDIAN AND YIELDED TO THE *LURE* OF THESE LONG, SILENT CORRIDORS.

*HEY!* Y-YOU'RE A *GIANT!* DO YOU OWN A CASTLE ON THE TOP OF A BIG *BEANSTALK?*

NO, BUT I'VE BEEN TO THE *BOTTOM* OF THE SEA AND LIVED IN A PLACE WHERE PEOPLE *FLY* WITHOUT WINGS!

*WOWW--!* TELL ME ABOUT 'EM, GIANT!

NOT BEFORE YOU GET A GOOD *SPANKING,* GEORGIE! I-I'VE BEEN LOOKING *EVERYWHERE* FOR YOU!

I FOUND A *GIANT,* JANEY!

PLEASE EXCUSE US, SIR. I-I'M GEORGIE'S **BABY-SITTER**-- AND I CAN'T UNDERSTAND **HOW** HE SLIPPED BY ME!

I'D SUGGEST THAT YOU WATCH HIM MORE **CAREFULLY!**

HE JUST **LOVES** TO WANDER THROUGH THE CORRIDORS!

'BYE, GIANT.

WHEN YOU RETURN TO YOUR ROOM, IT WOULD BE **WISE** TO BOLT YOUR DOOR!

PERHAPS I SHOULD **ESCORT** YOU THERE AND MAKE **CERTAIN** THAT YOU'RE SAFELY INSIDE!

OH-- ER-- THAT'S **NOT** NECES-SARY!

*THE EYES OF KARKAS SUDDENLY WIDEN IN SURPRISE AND SHOCK AS THEY STARE FIXEDLY ON A SPOT **BEHIND** THE GIRL...*

**HOLD!**

DON'T BE ALARMED-! DO AS I **TELL** YOU! STAY IN THIS ROOM--AND **DON'T LEAVE IT UNTIL I GIVE YOU THE WORD!**

COME IN! **QUICKLY!**

B-BUT I DON'T--!

*KARKAS LOCKS HIS CHARGES IN THE ROOM AND **LUNGES** INTO THE CORRIDOR...*

**WHAT IS THIS PLACE!?**

**SPEAK OR DIE--!**

WE'LL **SEE** WHO SPEAKS-- AND WHO DIES!

**MAKE READY!**

THE WARRIORS FROM THE PAST ARE QUICK TO ATTACK. THEY CLOSE WITH KARKAS...

THIS ONE IS STRONGER THAN HE SEEMS!

BEWARE! HE HAS THE GRIP OF A BEHEMOTH!

I MUSTN'T WASTE ANY TIME! THERE ARE INNOCENT LIVES AT STAKE IN THIS HOTEL!

TASTE THE AXE OF ATTILA!

BEFORE THE AXE DESCENDS, A MONSTROUS SHADOW RISES TO TRANSFIX ATTILA...

BY THE GODS! WHAT DEVIL'S TRICK IS THIS!?

IT IS TOO LATE FOR ANSWERS. THE REAL KARKAS STRIKES...

AAAA-!!

KRONCH!

KARKAS, THE DEVIANT MUTATE, IS MERCILESS IN BATTLE. THE RAGE THAT SEIZES HIM IN THE ARENA NOW CRUSHES HIS ADVERSARIES...

DIE, YOU VICIOUS MAGGOTS!

SKRRAAKK!!

SKRAAK!

THEN...

CRASH!!

AS THE TWO ATTACKERS HURTLE TOWARD THE STREET BELOW, THEY **SUDDENLY** VANISH IN **TWIN** FLASHES OF LIGHT...

POF!

POF!

THEY'RE GONE--! AS THOUGH THEY *NEVER* EXISTED!

YET ZAKKA MUST BE *FOUND* AND HIS TOOLS *TAKEN!*

HE IS NOW ABLE TO BRING *MORE* THAN ONE KILLER AT A TIME TO THIS CENTURY!

WE MAY SEE AN *ARMY* NEXT!

KARKAS TURNS ONCE AGAIN TOWARD HIS ROOM, ONLY TO CONFRONT THE TERRIFIED WITNESSES TO HIS IMAGE...

OH, MY GOD! I-IT'S *HORRIBLE! HORRIBLE!*

LOOK AT THE *MONSTER!* HE'S *REAL* BIG!

*RUN!* LET'S GET OUT OF HERE!!

THE REACTION OF THE ONLOOKERS IS A **BLOW** TO KARKAS. HE IS **TRAPPED** IN A FEARSOME BODY WHICH DRIVES ALL WHO SEE IT TO **FLEE** IN PANIC...

WAIT! **WAIT--!** YOU NEEDN'T FEAR ME! I AM **NOT** HERE TO CAUSE YOU HARM!

I HAVE COME TO **PREVENT** THE VERY PLAGUE OF VISITATIONS WHICH THREATEN YOUR CITY!

**IT'S HAPPENED AGAIN!** THIS HOTEL IS BESEIGED BY **DANGEROUS** FREAKS!

THIS WAY! THERE'S **SAFETY** ON THE **UPPER** FLOORS!

**EEEE--!** CALL THE POLICE!

I'M CHECKING **OUT** OF HERE!

THE CORRIDOR FALLS SILENT AS THE LAST OF THE FEAR-DRIVEN CROWD FADES FROM SIGHT...

FOOLS...YOU POOR FOOLS!

THEN...

ABANDONING YOUR DEVIANT HERITAGE HAS COST YOU DEARLY, KARKAS! HERE YOU ARE A SHARK AMONG MINNOWS!

THAT VOICE! I KNOW IT WELL!

SO...YOU'VE DECIDED TO SHOW YOURSELF, ZAKKA! AREN'T YOU A BIT FRIGHTENED OF FACING ME AT SUCH CLOSE QUARTERS?!

I WAS HOPING THAT THIS DEMONSTRATION OF AFFECTION BY YOUR HUMAN FRIENDS WOULD GIVE YOU PAUSE TO WONDER AT THE WORTH OF YOUR TASK!

IF YOU THINK TO WIN ME TO YOUR SIDE --TO BECOME ANOTHER OF YOUR CREATURES IN THIS REIGN OF TERROR --BEST THINK AGAIN!

BAH! IN THE END THEY'LL BLOW THEMSELVES UP! LEMURIA WILL RISE TO POWER! OUR RULERS SHALL BE SERVED!

BRINGING CHAOS TO THE HUMANS CAN WRECK THIS PLANET-- FOR ALL OF US!

I'VE FORSAKEN THAT FAMILY OF TOADS! IT'S TIME THEY WERE BROUGHT TO HEEL... AS WELL AS THEIR FAWNING SERVITORS!

THEN, WE ARE AT ODDS, YOU AND I!

TOO BAD, KARKAS. A GIANT MUTATE COULD HAVE SPREAD MORE HAVOC THAN A THOUSAND KILLERS FROM TIME!

BLAM!

IN THIS AGE YOU WERE THE PICK OF THE CROP!

I'LL HAVE TO *EMPTY* THIS SHOCK-PISTOL TO BRING YOU DOWN! THAT BODY OF YOURS CAN ABSORB MORE PUNISHMENT THAN A *BRIGADE* OF HUMANS!

BAM! BAM! BAM!

FALL, CURSE YOU! *FALL!!*

*IF I CAN'T USE YOU, I'LL DESTROY YOU!*

KRAK!

*FINALLY...*

YOU'LL -- *FAIL* -- ZAKKA... THENA -- THE ETERNAL -- AND -- THE REJECT -- ARE -- *STILL* -- ON -- YOUR -- TRAIL!

THEY'LL FIND YOU *DYING*, MUTATE! AS FOR *ME*...

...I SHALL BE CASTING MY *NET* IN THE *PROPER* WATERS THIS TIME -- WHERE THE DEVIANTS BRED THE MOST *POWERFUL* MUTATE OF A BYGONE AGE!

HE SHALL MAKE A *FIT* SUBSTITUTE FOR YOU! *FAREWELL!*

*THENA AND THE REJECT HAVE SUDDENLY ABANDONED THEIR SEARCH AND RACE TO THEIR QUARTERS...*

FOLLOW ME, REJECT!

ZAKKA'S PSYCHO-READINGS NOW LEAD TO OUR OWN FLOOR!

THEN KARKAS CAN HAVE THE *DUBIOUS* HONOR OF KILLING THAT OLD *FLEA!*

WHEN THENA AND THE REJECT REACH THEIR DESTINATION...

YOUR MECHANISM IS ***ACCURATE,*** MILADY. A BATTLE HAS ALREADY TAKEN PLACE!

IT MUST HAVE BEEN A ***FIERCE*** ENCOUNTER! KARKAS LIES WOUNDED AND ***ROBBED*** OF HIS HUMAN MASK!

I OVERCAME THE KILLERS, THENA--BUT ***ZAKKA*** WAS AS SWIFT AND LETHAL AS A ***VIPER!***

SO...THE OLD ***FIEND*** CAME OUT OF HIDING, DID HE!? WE'LL SOON TRACK HIM DOWN AGAIN!

BUT ***FIRST,*** KARKAS, I SHALL RESTORE THE ***IMAGE*** YOU MUST WEAR AMONG THE HUMANS.

-BZZZT

YOUR CONDITION SHOULD IMPROVE ***RAPIDLY!*** MY POWERS ALSO INCLUDE THE REPLACEMENT OF ***SHATTERED*** CELLS!

***REST*** A MOMENT AND THEN ***RISE*** TO YOUR FEET.

M-MY STRENGTH IS ***SLOWLY*** RETURNING. THE PAIN IS GIVING WAY TO A MERE ***SHORTNESS*** OF BREATH!

KARKAS IS RECOVERING, REJECT. HE WILL ***NEED*** YOUR HELP.

HE NEEDS ***LESSONS*** IN DEALING WITH A ***TREACHEROUS*** ENEMY!

DO AS THENA COMMANDS! WE HAVE ***WORK*** TO DO!

IF WE DON'T ***STOP*** THAT DEVIANT WIZARD NOW, HIS REIGN OF TERROR WILL ***INCREASE*** TENFOLD!

WE'LL FIND HIM --IF I CAN EVER MANAGE TO LIFT YOU!

WE'RE TOO LATE! ***HE'S NO LONGER IN THIS HOTEL!***

I-IT SEEMS ***IMPOSSIBLE*** THAT HIS DEPARTURE WAS EFFECTED THIS QUICKLY! YET... HIS ***MIND-WAVES*** HAVE ***VANISHED*** FROM THE PSYCHO-BAND!

ZAKKA HAS FOUND A MODE OF TRAVEL THAT DEFIES ***ALL*** KNOWN METHODS!

*AT THAT MOMENT...*

DISTANCE IS MEANINGLESS WHEN ***DIMENSION-TRANSIT*** IS IN OPERATION! I CAN REACH THIS SLEAZY APARTMENT AT THE SPEED OF ***LIGHT!***

IT TOOK CENTURIES TO ***FATHOM*** THE PRINCIPLES WHICH LED TO THIS DISCOVERY! WHO BUT THE ***GREATEST*** TOOL-MAKER COULD MASTER IT?

THE HUMANS ***LABOR*** IN GIANT COMPLEXES TO LAUNCH THE BALLISTIC MISSILES WHICH I CAN ***OUTSTRIP*** WITH THIS ***SIMPLE*** EQUIPMENT!

MY GENIUS IS ***WITHOUT*** PEER!

WHO WOULD CONTEMPLATE THE POSSIBILITY OF ***STORING*** SUCH AWESOME EQUIPMENT AS THIS ***DIMENSION HARNESS*** IN AN ***OLD*** BUREAU DRAWER?

IS THERE A ***SECRET*** LEFT THAT IS NOT WITHIN MY GRASP? IS THERE A ***TASK*** BEYOND REACH OF MY SKILLS??

MY ***TIME PROJECTOR*** IS STILL FOCUSED ON THE HOTEL, BUT I SHALL ***CHANGE*** THAT NOW!

I SHALL FOCUS IT ON AN AREA WHERE DEATH AND ***DESTRUCTION*** CAN BE INFLICTED WITH ***MASSIVE*** EFFECT!

HOWEVER, THESE ***CRUCIAL*** ADJUSTMENTS MUST BE MADE TO FULFILL THAT PURPOSE! THE INNER CIRCUITS SHALL PENETRATE A CENTURY IN ***ANCIENT*** DEVIANT HISTORY!

FROM THE ***DISTANT*** PAST I SHALL DRAW THE ONE WHOSE NAME ***STILL*** INSPIRES FEAR AMONG OUR PEOPLE!

***TUTINAX, THE MOUNTAIN MOVER--!***

THIS CITY ***AWAITS*** YOU!

MMMM

SUDDENLY--!

KRASH!

DEMONS OF THE PITS! THAT VIOLENT BACKLASH WAS TOTALLY UNEXPECTED!

I-IT SHOULDN'T HAVE HAPPENED! MY CALCULATIONS WERE INFALLIBLE! ZAKKA DOESN'T MAKE ERRORS!

THE DEVIANT IS STARTLED BY A MUFFLED SOUND. SOMETHING HUGE MOVES ACROSS HIS LINE OF VISION...

SPEAK! WHO ARE YOU!? H-HOW DID YOU GET IN THIS ROOM?

ZAKKA'S VITALS CHURN MISERABLY WITH THE TRUTH. WHAT SHOULD HAVE BEEN PROJECTED ACROSS THE CITY HAS INSTEAD ARRIVED IN HIS OWN APARTMENT...

NO! NO!!

A NIGHTMARE SHADOW CLOSES IN UPON HIM...

THE DIMENSION HARNESS--! MY ONLY HOPE OF ESCAPE!

IT IS AN EFFORT THAT IS PAINFULLY SLOW. EVERY NERVE IN THE DEVIANT'S BODY IS STRAINED TO ITS LIMIT AS THE DRAWER IS OPENED...AND...

THE HARNESS... I NEED ONLY A SECOND TO ACTIVATE IT AND TRANSPORT MYSELF TO SAFETY!

THEN--!

THOMP!

OUTSIDE...

YAAA

WHAT'S GOING ON IN *THERE?*

BAM! CRASH!

LISTEN TO THAT COMMOTION! I-IT'S *TERRIBLE!*

*MISTER ZACHARY! OPEN UP!*

I-I'LL PHONE THE *POLICE!*

*LISTEN!* THE NOISE HAS *STOPPED!*

SOMEONE'S STILL *MOVING* IN THERE!

I *DON'T* HEAR OLD ZACHARY! DO YOU *SUPPOSE--?*

ISN'T THERE A *MAN* HERE WITH NERVE ENOUGH TO BREAK DOWN THAT DOOR?!

YOU'VE *FOUND* A VOLUNTEER, MISS! I SEEK THE OCCUPANT OF THAT *VERY* APARTMENT!

THERE'S *NO* MISTAKE! THE PSYCHO-BAND HAS *TRACED* ZAKKA ONCE MORE! HE'S UP THERE!

BUT SOMETHING'S *HAPPENED,* THENA! THE GATHERING AT HIS DOOR... WHAT DOES IT *MEAN?*

*STRANGE...* ZAKKA'S *MIND WAVES* HAVE SUDDENLY *VANISHED* FROM THE PSYCHO-BAND!

LET US THROUGH, FRIENDS. *WE'LL* TAKE CHARGE OF THIS SITUATION!

M-MISTER ZACHARY IS IN TERRIBLE TROUBLE! PLEASE, DO SOMETHING-- *QUICKLY!*

BY THE GODS! THIS PLACE IS A SHAMBLES!

ZAKKA! WHERE ARE YOU--!?

CRASH!

SUDDENLY--!

KRUF!

ALERT--! MUTATE!

GREAT ZURAS!

STAND ASIDE, THENA!

WHAM!

CLEAR THIS BUILDING AT ONCE !!

WE'RE GOING, LADY!

THENA **GASPS** AS SHE ENTERS THE APARTMENT.

OF ALL THE DANGERS LOOSED UPON US, THIS IS INDEED THE *VILEST* OF ALL!

TUTINAX IS AMONG US--!!

QUELL YOUR MURDEROUS RAGE, MUTATE! WE TWO ARE OF YOUR KIND--!

THIS IS NOT THE COMBAT ARENA! YOU'VE LEFT IT FAR BEHIND YOU!

THEN TELL ME, SQUEALING VERMIN! HOW WAS I SNATCHED FROM THE THROAT OF A WORTHY FOE--TO THIS ACCURSED PLACE!?

HE'S IN A KILLING FRENZY! I MUST HELP THEM!

THENA--! G-GO BACK!

AN *ETERNAL!*

ZZSSH!

RELEASE THEM, MUTATE! I CAN USE THE BOLTS OF ZURAS!

THIS IS A PLACE OF *MADNESS!* THESE CREATURES ARE *NOT* WHAT THEY SEEM TO BE!

BLAAM!

BREATHE *EASIER*, MY *HEROES!* THE *MOUNTAIN MOVER* HAS BEEN *FRIGHTENED* OFF!

BUT, *WOE* TO THIS TOWN WHEN HIS *RAGE* RETURNS!

WOE TO *ALL* WHO FEEL HIS GRIP! HE IS A BEAST WITH THE *POWER* OF A *GOD!!*

A CURSE UPON ZAKKA AND HIS *MEDDLING* WITH THE FORCES OF TIME!

THE SCOUNDREL HAS *PAID* FOR HIS EVIL DEEDS. THIS *LAST* ONE WAS HIS *COSTLIEST!*

WE HAVE BUT TO STOP TUTINAX TO *ELIMINATE* ANY *FURTHER* THREAT TO THE CITY!

BE *RATIONAL*, MILADY! EACH OF US KNOWS THE MUTATE'S HISTORY! TO DEFEAT HIM WOULD BE A TRIUMPH *BEYOND* OUR COMBINED TALENTS!

YET... TO DO BATTLE WITH THIS *TITAN* FROM THE PAST WOULD BE AN *HONOR* FOR ANY VETERAN OF THE COMBAT ARENA!

I *NEVER* DOUBTED YOUR DECISION, REJECT!

I WOULD *TRY*, MILADY! I WOULD TEST MY SKILLS IN SUCH AN *EPIC* FIGHT!

LET THIS STATURE BE *YOURS!*

I SHALL RESTORE YOUR *TRUE* IMAGE, *MASTER-KILLER!*

*KOMF!!!*

HE LOOKS MOST ATTRACTIVE --FOR *DYING!*

THE *REAPER* IS EVER PRESENT IN THE ARENA. SHOULD HE BECKON ME, I SHALL GO TO HIM IN *PROPER* ATTIRE!

THANK YOU, MILADY!

YEA, THOUGH I BE AS THE *WASP* TO A GIANT WHO WALKS THE EARTH, MY WIT AND SPEED AND DEADLY STING SHALL *MAGNIFY* IN POWER-- WHEN THE FURIES COURSE IN MY BLOOD!

POOR REJECT... HE HAS THE *DEATH-WISH!*

*COME THEN!* I SHALL LEVITATE US TO THE *TASK* WHICH LIES AHEAD!

LEAD US, THENA!

MEANWHILE, IN THE HEART OF THE CITY...

DO MY EYES *DECEIVE* ME!? IS THAT A MAN UP THERE--?OR SOME *GIANT APE!?*

WHERE DO THESE *CRAZIES* COME FROM!? CAN'T THE AUTHORITIES *STOP* THEM!?

HE'S *RIPPING UP* EVERYTHING IN SIGHT! *LOOK!* HE'S GOING FOR THAT WATER TANK!

THIS ONE IS *STRONGER* THAN AN ELEPHANT! HE'S *TORN* THE TANK FROM ITS MOORINGS!

I'LL *SILENCE* YOUR INFERNAL TONGUES, HUMANS! THIS COMMUNAL CLACKING IS AN *OBSCENITY* TO THE EAR!

*RUN!* HE'S GOING TO *THROW* THAT THING!

*CRAASSH!*

*BEGONE, YOU FRIGHTENED ANTS!* SCATTER TO THE SAFETY OF YOUR STONE HIVES! AND SEEK *NO* MERCY WHEN THE SHADOW OF TUTINAX FALLS ACROSS YOUR PATH!

WHERE I TREAD--I CLAIM *DOMINION !!*

*RUN! RUN!*

*YAAAA!*

*CLEAR THE STREETS!*

SUDDENLY--!

SO IT'S YOU THREE! HAS GOOD FORTUNE NUMBED YOUR BRAINS, THAT YOU WOULD RISK A SECOND ENCOUNTER!?

THE MOUNTAIN-MOVER IS FAT WITH ARROGANCE, AND BLINDED BY PAST TRIUMPHS!

I AGREE!

HEED THIS, TUTINAX! A WORTHY ADVERSARY CANNOT BE JUDGED BY HIS SIZE! I AM FIT FOR ANY ARENA THAT YOU CHOOSE FOR COMBAT!

DID I REALLY HEAR THOSE WORDS?

DEVIANTS ARE NOT BORN TO JEST! THIS CHALLENGE INCLUDES MY OWN! ARE YOU TOO PROUD TO ACCEPT IT!?

THE AGES HAVEN'T CHANGED OUR KIND! AS IT WAS IN YOUR DAY--WE'VE BEEN BRED TO DARE AND DIE!

YOU'VE BEEN BRED TO MADNESS!! LOOK UPON ME AND KNOW THAT DEATH IS CERTAIN! I NEED NOTHING MORE THAN MY THUMB TO DEFEAT YOU BOTH!

USE WHAT YOU WISH, BEHEMOTH--! BUT FIGHT!

ER-YES-- FIGHT!!

BY THE GODS OF BATTLE! I GRANT YOUR WISH!

TH-THEN SO BE IT! LET DESTINY DECIDE!

SILENCE, FOOL! YOUR COURAGE IS NOT AS PROMISING AS THE DARK ONE'S EAGERNESS!

THEN, I AM CHOSEN!

IN THE TRADITION OF THE ANCIENT CODE OF DEVIANT COMBAT, *I SALUTE YOU!*

*I SALUTE YOU, DEADLY MICROBE!*

YOU IGNORE ME IN *VAIN!* MY FORCE SHALL BE FELT!

THENA--YOU *MUSTN'T* INTERFERE!

ONLY TO THE EXTENT OF CHOOSING THE *PROPER* ARENA!

*STAND FAST --ALL OF YOU!*

WHAT ARE YOU UP TO, ETERNAL?

*A **BRIGHT** FLASH FOLLOWS THE GESTURE OF THENA'S HAND!*

*THE GROUP **VANISHES** FROM THE ROOFTOP, AND THEN...*

*THIS* IS WHERE YOU SHALL FIGHT! SINCE THE HUMANS HAVE NO PART IN THIS, THEIR PRESENCE SHOULD BE *AVOIDED!*

STREET CLOSED FOR REPAIRS BY ORIN OPTIVUM

WISELY *DONE,* THENA! WHAT HAPPENS HERE WILL *NOT* AFFECT THEM!

*CEASE* YOUR CHATTER! GIVE ME *SPACE* TO MANEUVER!

IT'S *YOURS,* REJECT!

BEFORE YOU *DIE,* FLEA, YOU SHALL WITNESS THE MIGHT YOU SO *FOOLISHLY* DEFIED!

I AM CALLED THE *MOUNTAIN-MOVER* WITH *GOOD* REASON!

FOR MINE IS *NOT* A LEGEND BUILT ON *SHAM!*

WHAAM!!

YOU'LL HAVE TO SHOW ME *MORE* THAN *THAT!*

I'VE BEEN *OUTMATCHED* IN POWER--BUT NEVER IN RESOURCEFUL-NESS AND *SPEED!*

HERE IS *STEEL* FOR YOUR *GUT!*

KRAK-K!

MIGHTIER WEAPONS THAN *THAT* HAVE *SHATTERED* ON MY VITALS!

*YIELD,* FLEA --AND I SHALL GRANT YOU-- *LIFE!*

SAVE YOUR MERCY FOR *LESSER* FOES!

MUST I MOVE A *MOUNTAIN* TO GIVE YOU A TRUE VISION OF THE *ODDS* YOU FACE!?

*I SHALL NOT YIELD, THOUGH YOU MOVE THIS CITY!!*

RRRRUUMMM!!!

THEN YOU SHALL SEE IT *DONE!!* SUCH EPIC MADNESS DESERVES TO *END* IN EPIC STYLE!

HE'S LIFTING THE *ENTIRE* BUILDING FROM ITS *FOUNDATION* !!

*INCREDIBLE!* TUTINAX IS THE MOST POWERFUL ANIMAL THAT *EVER* LIVED!

IT'S SHEER PHYSICAL FORCE AT ITS *ULTIMATE!* *HE CAN DESTROY THIS CITY!*

AND *US* AS WELL! LEAVE, THENA! *LEVITATE AND FLEE!*

*LET THIS BE BOTH GRAVE AND MONUMENT! DIE!!*

*DOOM* IS UPON US, REJECT!

THEN YOU DIE WITH US, MUTATE!

RUSH HIM, KARKAS! IF WE RAM HIM IN UNISON, THERE'S A CHANCE WE CAN TOPPLE HIM!

HOLD!

THE BUILDING WILL *CRUSH* US-- BUT THE THREAT TO OTHERS WILL BE *GONE!*

AS THE TWO REACH THEIR TARGET--!

SPOSSH!

TUTINAX--! H-HE'S *VANISHED!*

NATURALLY!

IT WAS ONLY A MATTER OF-- *TIME!*

THE BUILDING HAS LOWERED AND SETTLED!

YOU *KNEW* THIS WOULD HAPPEN, THENA! *THAT'S* WHY YOU STAYED--! TO *LEVITATE* THIS STRUCTURE BACK UPON ITS *FOUNDATION!*

TUTINAX WAS *FADING!* IT REGISTERED ON MY PSYCHO-BAND!

THUS, HE DEPARTED, LIKE THOSE BE-FORE HIM!

WE'VE BEEN PLAYED FOR *FOOLS--!* USED BY A FEMALE AS PAWNS IN A *DELAYING* TACTIC!

*NO!* HAD THIS LASTED A MOMENT *LONGER,* OUR DEATHS WOULD HAVE BEEN *REAL* ENOUGH!

WELL SAID, KARKAS!

WE'VE *DONE* OUR WORK, THENA-- BUT WHAT HAS ALL THIS DONE FOR *US!?*

IT'S HELPED US MUCH *MORE* THAN THE *HUMANS!*

HOW?

THIS EXPERIENCE HAS GIVEN US *TRUE* COMRADESHIP! EACH OF US WAS WILLING TO SACRIFICE FOR THE *OTHER!*

BAH!

NONSENSE!

THE END.

THE ETERNALS ™

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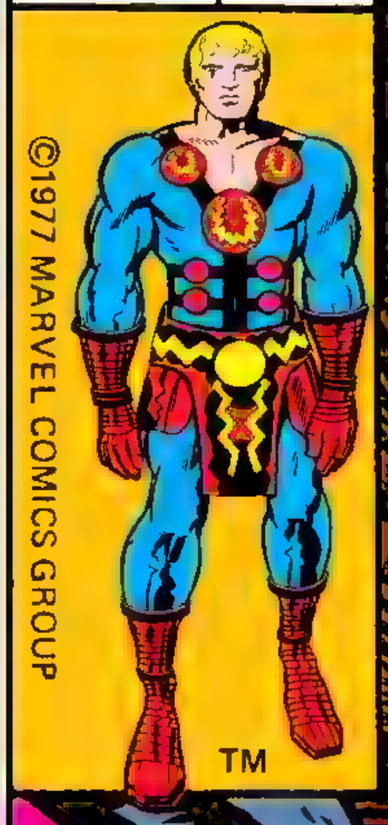

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# WHEN GODS WALK THE EARTH!

# THE ETERNALS™

ONLY IN THE AWESOME ERA OF THE SPACE GOD'S RETURN COULD THIS ACTION SHOCKER HAPPEN!

## "THE ASTRONAUTS!"

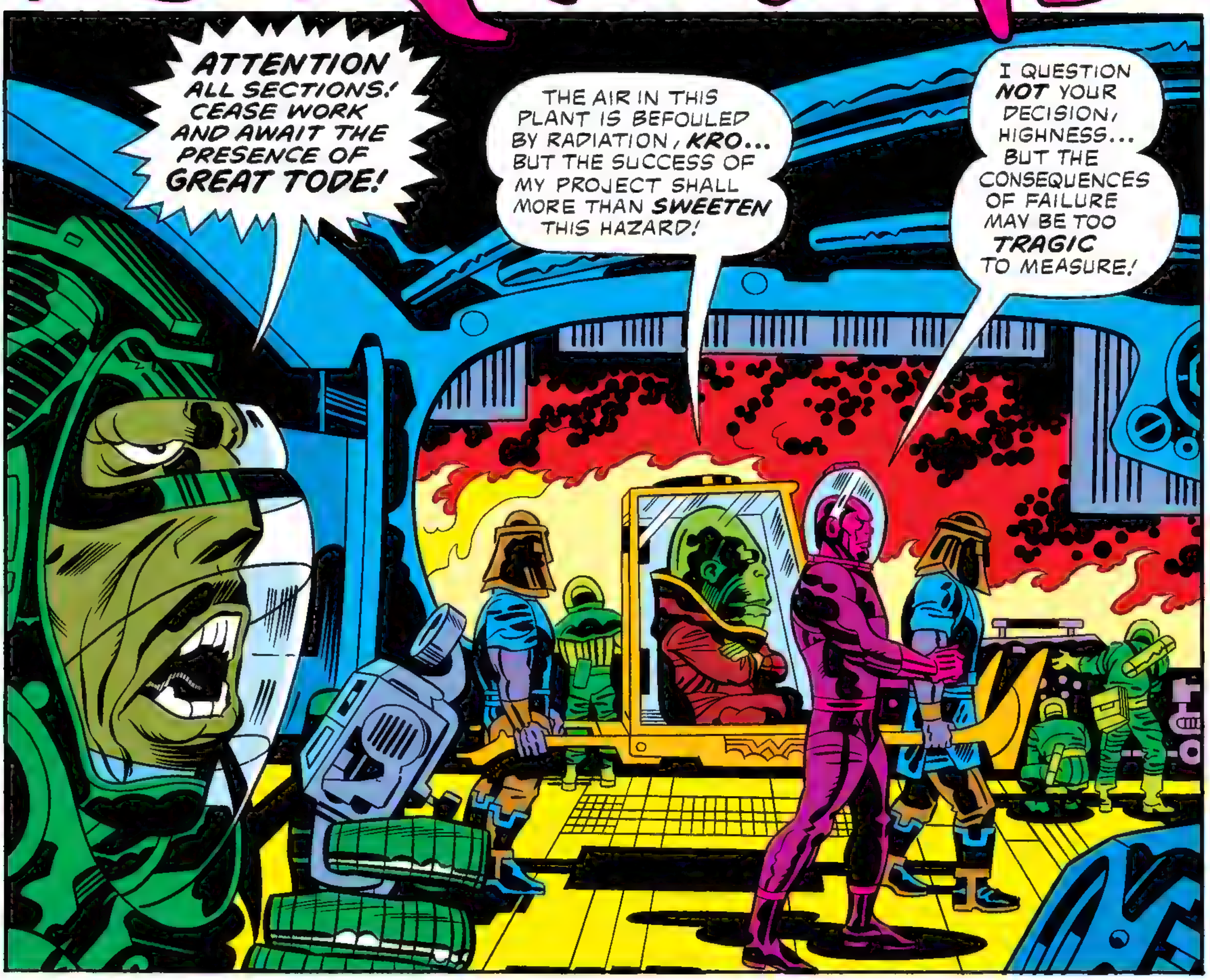
Strange events have exposed a startling fact, kept alive through the centuries only by myth and superstition—man is not alone on the evolutionary chain!! He has shared the planet with two species unknown to him! Now, in a sudden burst of violence, the Deviants have risen from their domain beneath the sea to challenge all humanity!! But mankind has unexpected allies—

# Stan Lee PRESENTS: THE ETERNALS!™

EDITED, WRITTEN AND DRAWN BY **JACK KIRBY** • LETTERED AND INKED BY **MIKE ROYER** • COLORED BY **GLYNIS WEIN** • APPRECIATED BY **ARCHIE GOODWIN**

IMAGES ONCE CARVED ON STONE BY THE ANCIENT **INCAS,** HAVE COME TO LIFE! AND, WHAT'S MORE, THEY'VE COME TO EARTH! **THE SPACE GODS HAVE RETURNED!** ...AND A NEW AWARENESS OF THE PAST, PRESENT, AND THE FUTURE HAS GRIPPED US IN THE WAKE OF THEIR ARRIVAL! **WHILE GIANT CELESTIALS NOW ROAM OUR WORLD, THEIR SPACECRAFT ORBITS THE PLANET!** THIS IS THE STORY OF THOSE WHO ARE SENT TO DEAL WITH THAT SPACECRAFT: **THE**

# ASTRONAUTS!



IN THE CITY OF **LEMURIA,** BENEATH THE SOUTH ATLANTIC DEEPS, THE GIANT **BOMB** LIES WAITING TO BE LAUNCHED. IT IS NOT MERELY A WEAPON OF **DREADFUL** POWER, BUT A TOOL OF **VENGEANCE!** LONG AGO, THE SPACE GODS CAME TO EARTH AND BROKE THE BACK OF THE **DEVIANT** MASTERY OF THE WORLD. THIS TIME, THE DEVIANTS AIM TO **EVEN** THE SCORE.

**BEHOLD,** KRO--MY LITTLE **GIFT** TO THE GODS!

**IMPRESSIVE,** GREAT TODE. BUT THE CELESTIALS ARE MADE OF STUFF **BEYOND** OUR KNOWLEDGE!

THE CELESTIALS AND THEIR SHIP HAVE ***SUBSTANCE***--EVEN AS YOU AND I, GENERAL. THEY CAN BE ***DESTROYED!***

THE PROBLEM LIES IN OUR CAPABILITY AND ***READINESS!*** WE MAY BE UNLEASHING OUR ***POWER*** TOO SOON.

WE MUST KNOW ***MORE*** ABOUT THE ADVERSARY!

WE KNOW ENOUGH... ***MY ORDERS STAND!*** THIS SHALL BE ***DONE!***

THEN, ***SO BE IT!*** WE CHALLENGED THEM LONG AGO--AND LOST. PERHAPS, ***THIS*** TIME...

THIS AGE BELONGS TO ***US! SUMMON THE ASTRONAUTS!***

*A HUGE DOOR OPENS AND THREE DEVIANTS EMERGE...*

***COME FORTH, BRAVE ONES!***

WE ***OBEY,*** GREAT TODE. YOUR WORD IS OUR ***DESTINY!***

MY WORD IS ***ABSOLUTE!*** ALL DEVIANTS LIVE AND DIE BY THE POWER OF MY WORD!

NOW... REVEAL ***ALL*** THAT HAS BEEN SAID TO YOU.

YES, SIRE.

WE SHALL GUIDE THE ***ENERGY-BOMB*** INTO SPACE. IT WILL ***ACTIVATE*** AT A HEIGHT OF 500 MILES. AS IT ***GAINS KILL-POWER,*** WE SHALL INCREASE OUR SPEED AND REACH THE CELESTIAL CRAFT AT THE ***MOMENT*** OF DETONATION!

EACH OF US WILL PERISH IN THE BLAST. BUT WE ARE RESIGNED TO THIS FATE!

YOU SHOULD BE PROUD! PROUD!

YOURS WILL BE A MONUMENTAL FEAT!

THE BLOW-UP WILL NOT ONLY DESTROY A VESSEL OF THE SPACE GODS--IT WILL SCORCH VAST AREAS OF THIS PLANET AND RID US OF MILLIONS OF CURSED HUMANS!

WHEN IT IS OVER, THE DEVIANTS SHALL RISE SAFELY FROM THE DEPTHS OF THE SEA AND WREST CONTROL FROM OUR SHATTERED COUSINS.

YOUR MISSION IS CLEAR!

TO DESTROY IS TO TRIUMPH!!

DEPART, AND FLY--FOR THE GLORY OF ANCIENT LEMURIA!

WE LEAVE AT ONCE! FAREWELL, GREAT TODE.

WE ARE DETERMINED TO SUCCEED!

SOON AFTER, A HUGE FISH-LIKE OBJECT IS HURLED FROM THE SEA AND VANISHES SKY-WARD...

W-WHAT IN BLAZES IS THAT!? I-IT'S TOO BIG TO BE A POLARIS MISSILE!

IT LOOKS MORE LIKE A GIANT WHALE!

BUT THE DEVIANTS HAVE MADE THEIR **RECKLESS** MOVE WITHOUT KNOWLEDGE OF **ANOTHER** SPACE FLIGHT NOW IN PROGRESS...

THIS NEW **SHUTTLE** JOB HANDLES LIKE A **DREAM.**

IT'S PERFECT FOR A **QUICK SCAN** MISSION.

NASA

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**U.S.** ASTRONAUTS **TERRY PARKER** AND **MATT DURGAN** HAVE LEFT CAPE CANAVERAL FAR BEHIND THEM. THEIR OBJECTIVE IS A MYSTERY **MORE** PUZZLING THAN THE FARTHEST PLANET...

**SPACE GIANTS.** WE'VE GOT TO SPY ON SPACE GIANTS! IT MAKES WALKING ON THE MOON SEEM LIKE **NOSTALGIA.**

YEAH. WHILE WE WERE BRIGHT-EYED AND **BIG-CHESTED** ABOUT SPACE TRAVEL, THE COMPETITION WAS ON ITS WAY TO **US!**

**SPACE GIANTS...** THEY'VE GOT A BASE IN THE ANDES, AND A CREW MARCHING ALL OVER **OUR** TURF!

DON'T FORGET THEIR ORBITING MAMA SHIP, **MAN!** I-I COULDN'T BELIEVE THOSE TELESCOPIC PHOTOS!

**AND** THAT IS THE **CORE** OF THE AMERICAN MISSION: TO CLOSE WITH THE ALIEN VESSEL AND OBTAIN **DEFINITIVE** DETAIL ON ITS OUTER STRUCTURE.

CAMERAS UP! **CAMERAS OUT!**

**CAMERAS OPERATING.** I'VE LOCATED OUR TARGET.

SEE ANYTHING WORTH *LOOKING* AT--? THE CRAFT WAS JUST A BIG *DARK* BLOB IN THE PHOTOS WE WERE SHOWN.

WE'LL LEARN MORE AS WE GET *CLOSER*, MATT. THESE CAMERAS WILL PICK UP *EVERY* NUT AND BOLT!

*THEY'D BETTER!* THERE ARE *BIG* STAKES RIDING ON THIS MISSION. THAT'S A *DIRECT* QUOTE FROM THE *PRESIDENT* HIMSELF!

NO LECTURES, DURGAN... *PLEASE.* MUST YOU BE A *SERGEANT* ALL OF YOUR LIFE?

A SERGEANT *NEVER* FORGETS HIS JOB, PARKER... ESPECIALLY AFTER HE'S MADE IT THROUGH THE RANKS TO *MAJOR!*

*HEY!* I CAN SEE IT CLEARLY, NOW! MAN! *LOOK AT IT... LOOK AT THAT SHIP!!*

*THE SWIFT NARROWING OF DISTANCE CREATES A **STAGGERING** VISUAL IMPACT! IT IS A SIGHT WHICH **NO** HUMAN IS PREPARED FOR...*

TO SEE *THIS* IS TO LEARN THE *TRUE* MEANING OF THE WORD-- *BIG!*

OHH-- *WOWWW!*

*THE ALIEN STRUCTURE DRIFTS IN SPACE WITH THE SILENT **GRANDEUR** OF A HUGE CATHEDRAL. IT GENERATES FEELINGS OF AWE... CONFUSION... AND **FEAR!***

THIS IS *IT*, DURGAN!

THERE'S NO TURNING *BACK!*

MEANTIME, IN THE MOUNTAIN-TOP CITY OF OLYMPIA, ALL BUT ONE SMALL VOICE REMAINS AMONG ITS SOARING SPIRES...

MAY THE DEMONS TAKE THOSE DEVIANTS!

SEE WHAT THEY'VE DONE?!

T-THEY'VE LAUNCHED SOME KIND OF INFERNAL WEAPON AT THE CRAFT OF THE SPACE GODS!

T-THERE'S NO TELLING WHAT WILL HAPPEN... ONCE THAT THING STRIKES ITS MARK!

WOE TO THE WORLD, IF THE GODS RETALIATE! WOE TO THE ETERNALS IN THIS UNEXPECTED MOMENT OF IMPENDING HOLOCAUST!!

WOE TO POOR SPRITE WHO WAS CHARGED WITH THIS DUTY!

HOW EAGERLY I ACCEPTED IT! WHAT FUN, I THOUGHT...TO PRY INTO THE WORLD'S CORNERS WITH THE MECHANISMS OF ZURAS AND PEER AT MORTALS PURSUING THEIR FOLLIES!

OH, STUPID SPRITE--! MONARCH OF MUDDLE-HEADS! YOU'VE SEEN TOO MUCH! THE FATE OF THE EARTH HAS BEEN THRUST INTO YOUR QUAKING LAP!

SOMETHING MUST BE DONE!

SPRITE LEVITATES FROM HIS POST WITH UNCANNY SPEED. HE SCOURS THE EMPTY STREETS OF OLYMPIA FOR THE SMALLEST SIGN OF A FELLOW ETERNAL...

OLYMPIA IS **DESERTED!** EVERY ETERNAL HAS GONE TO JOIN ZURAS IN OUR MOST **AWESOME** OF RITUALS.

THEY'VE GONE TO FORM THE **UNI-MIND!*** OUR MEANS OF COPING WITH AN ERA OF **DIRE** STRESS.

WHAT **IRONY!** THE RITUAL GRAPPLES WITH THE PROBLEM OF THE SPACE GODS, EVEN AS THE DEVIANTS **SCUTTLE** ALL HOPE OF DEALING WITH THEM!

*IF YOU HAVEN'T SEEN THE UNIMIND, GET OUR PREVIOUS ISSUE. IT'S A **BLOCKBUSTER!** --J.K.

**HOLD,** SPRITE! THIS PLACE MAY BE EMPTY OF ALL BUT--**HOPE!** LIKE ANY ADHERENT TO THE WISDOM OF ZURAS, I'VE **OVERLOOKED** THE **FORGOTTEN ONE!**

DO I **DARE** BREAK AN EDICT OF **CENTURIES** --AND GO TO HIM?

*IN VIEW OF THE CRISIS, SPRITE MAKES A **BOLD** DECISION. HE ENTERS A LONG NEGLECTED SECTOR **SHUNNED** BY ALL ETERNALS...*

H-HE LIVES HERE--LIKE AN **ANCIENT** MYTH--NO LONGER REMEM-BERED!

**THEN...**

I-I AM SPRITE. A **GREAT** URGENCY FORCES ME TO **INTRUDE** UPON YOU!

IF YOU HAVE **NEED** OF A HERO, I AM TOLD THAT THE TIME FOR ONE HAS LONG **PAST!**

***SPRITE IS UNDAUNTED AS HE EXPLAINS THE SITUATION...***

YOU SEE, THERE IS **LITTLE** TIME LEFT! BUT, AN ETERNAL CAN **STILL** FOUL THIS ATTACK!

THE WILL OF **ZURAS** KEEPS ME HERE!

ONCE I ROAMED THE WORLD AMONG THE HUMANS AND **SHOOK** IT TO IMPROVE THEIR LOT. I TOPPLED THE PALACES OF TYRANTS AND SLEW THE BEASTS THEY COULD **NOT** CONQUER.

THE HUMANS KNEW ME BY **MANY** NAMES... BUT HERE, I HAVE **NONE!**

ZURAS BANISHED YOU FOR YOUR **PRIDE!** YOUR WILL TO MEDDLE IN HUMAN AFFAIRS.

BUT **I** CALL UPON YOU FOR YOUR STRENGTH... AND ONE **UNSELFISH** UNIVERSAL ACT...

IF ZURAS IS ABSENT--HIS EDICT IS ABSENT. **WHAT MUST I DO?**

*SPRITE GATHERS HIS MENTAL ENERGIES... HIS HEAD **GLOWS** LIKE A SMALL SUN...*

IT IS WHAT **I** MUST DO THAT MATTERS!

WHA—!?

YOU'RE **VERY** GOOD, SPRITE! WITH THIS RAIMENT, I SHOULD **NOT** FIND SPACE UNCOMFORTABLE.

PLAYING WITH **ATOMS** IS GREAT FUN! I DO IT ALL TH' TIME.

PROVIDING ME WITH A **SUITABLE** VESSEL WON'T BE EASY. YOU'LL NEED THE ATOMS OF SOME **BASIC** MATERIAL!

THIS HOUSE I SHALL RESTRUCTURE THIS HOUSE INTO A SPACE-SHIP TO BE **ENVIED!**

MEANWHILE, FAR BEYOND EARTH'S ATMOSPHERE, THE AMERICAN ASTRONAUT TEAM CLOSES IN ON THEIR CYCLOPEAN TARGET...

KEEP THOSE CAMERAS **GRINDING**, PARKER. WE'VE GOT TO COVER **EVERY INCH** OF THIS THING!

I HOPE WE HAVE **ENOUGH** FILM TO COVER THAT SHIP. IT'S **BIGGER** THAN CAPE CANAVERAL.

I'VE BEEN THINKING ABOUT WHO OR WHAT MIGHT BE **ABOARD** THAT THING. DO YOU SUPPOSE —?

**HOLD IT! WE'VE GOT COMPANY!**

A NEW SILHOUETTE REGISTERS ON THE LASER-SCOPE. IT IS LARGER THAN THE AMERICAN SHIP, AND APPROACHING THEIR SAME TARGET...

I'VE **NEVER** SEEN A CRAFT OF THAT DESIGN...

IT'S RIGHT BEHIND US AND CLOSING **FAST!**

OUR CAMERAS SHOULD PICK IT UP RIGHT QUICK! TRY TO GET A **MAKE** ON HER.

LOOK FOR **MARKINGS!**

IT'S AN **UNIDENTIFIABLE!** IF THE RUSSIANS BUILT THAT, IT MUST HAVE BEEN DONE IN **TRANSYLVANIA!**

THERE IT IS! **BELOW** US!

IT LOOKS LIKE SOME KIND OF **WHALE!** ONLY IT'S SPOUTING **FIRE** FROM VARIOUS POINTS IN ITS HULL!

YOU WON'T BELIEVE **THIS**, MATT! **A NEW VEHICLE! YET ANOTHER MYSTERY SHIP!** WE'VE BECOME A DAMNED **PARADE!**

THE MANNED BOMB OF THE DEVIANTS **HURTLES** TOWARD ITS OBJECTIVE WITH GRIM INTENT... FLARING STREAMERS OF SEETHING ENERGY MARK ITS PROGRESS, GLOWING **BRIGHT** AND **FIERCE** AS THE WHITE HOT CORE OF ITS DEADLY ATOMIC PILE NEARS THE **HOLOCAUST** RANGE.

I **DON'T** LIKE THIS, PARKER! SOMETHING IN MY GUT TELLS ME THOSE TWO SPELL **TROUBLE!**

NOT FOR US. THEY'RE HEADED FOR THE ALIEN!

BUT, IN ITS WAKE, A SHIP OF THE ETERNALS MAKES **READY** FOR INTERCEPTION...

NASA

**IGNORE** THESE VESSELS! STAY ON COURSE AND **INCREASE SPEED!**

**DEVIANT DOGS!**

I MUST BOARD THEIR SHIP BEFORE IT **STRIKES** THE CELESTIAL!

HOWEVER, THERE IS **MOVEMENT** ABOARD THE CELESTIAL VESSEL. COSMIC **EYES** WATCH THE APPROACH OF THE SHIPS FROM EARTH...

**A** COSMIC MIND **QUICKLY** DISCERNS THE MISSIONS OF THE ASTRONAUTS. THE CELESTIAL IS FACED WITH A SIMPLE PROBLEM: **THE CREWS ARE IN THE WRONG SHIPS...**

THE **ONE ABOVE ALL,** WHO COMMANDS THE **FOURTH HOST,** IS ALSO THE WIELDER OF **JUSTICE...** AND IN HIS BLAZING EYES, THE SOLUTION HAS **ALREADY** FORMED...

IN THE AMERICAN SHUTTLE CRAFT...

MISSION CONTROL HAS GIVEN THE WORD, MATT. WE TURN **BACK!**

LET'S **DO** IT! WE'VE **GOT** OUR PICTURES!

AT THAT MOMENT...

W-WHA—!?

**THUM!**

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT IS **UNEXPLAINABLE** AS WELL AS **FRIGHTENING**...

**LOOK!** H-HOW DID **THEY** GET INTO THE SHIP?!

**HUMANS!** W-WE'VE BEEN **TRANSPORTED** INTO THEIR CRAFT!

**CAREFUL,** MATT... THEY APPEAR **HOSTILE!**

THEY **ARE** HOSTILE! THEY'RE USING THEIR **WEAPONS!**

**CUT THAT OUT! WHO ARE YOU GUYS?!**

SUBJECTS OF GREAT TODE... RULER OF THE **DEVIANTS!**

**POW!**

**KILL THEM! TAKE THEIR VESSEL!**

**TOO LATE!** THE HUMANS ARE **FADING** LIKE CURSED PHANTOMS!

SEE FOR **YOURSELF!**

WIDE-EYED WITH WONDER, THE DEVIANTS WATCH AS THE AMERICANS **VANISH** IN A BRIGHT FLASH OF LIGHT...

**ZUM!**

**INCREDIBLE! THEY'RE GONE!**

THIS CAN ONLY BE THE WORK OF THE **SPACE GODS!**

MEANWHILE, MATT DURGAN AND TERRY PARKER **REAPPEAR** IN **ANOTHER** SPACE VEHICLE...

T-TERRY--! W-WHAT'S HAPPENED!?

YOU TELL **ME!**

THE TWO ASTRONAUTS FIND THE SHIP OF THE ETERNALS STRANGE AND **UNOCCUPIED**...

THERE'S OUR SHUTTLE CRAFT! ...AND WE'RE **NOT** IN IT--THAT'S FOR SURE!

B-BUT HOW'D WE GET INTO **THIS** SHIP?

AS FOR ITS **FORMER** OCCUPANT, HE FINDS HIMSELF ABOARD THE DEVIANT'S **SPACE-BOMB!** HE HAS NO QUESTIONS FOR THE GODS. HE IS WHERE HE **WANTS** TO BE...

THE POWERFUL ETERNAL PROCEEDS TO HIS HERCULEAN TASK. HEAT, RADIATION, AND THE CRACKLE OF UNLEASHED FORCES HAVE MADE THE SHIP'S ENVIRONMENT **DEADLY** TO ORDINARY MEN.

THIS IS THE CHAMBER OF THE **TRIGGER** UNIT. I MUST REACH IT BEFORE THIS VESSEL EXPLODES!

IN SECONDS, THERE WILL BE CONTACT WITH THE CELESTIAL SHIP. IN SECONDS, THERE WILL BE DEATH FOR **MILLIONS!** THE ETERNAL HAS ONLY MERE SECONDS TO DO THE **IMPOSSIBLE**...

IT IS AN HOUR WHEN THE IMPOSSIBLE HAS SUDDENLY BECOME **INCREDIBLE REALITY!** AT A SECRET **NASA** AIRFIELD IN THE MOJAVE DESERT, THE RETURN OF THE AMERICAN ASTRONAUTS IS **EAGERLY** AWAITED...

A VEHICLE IS **SIGHTED.** A VEHICLE IS **TRACKED.** A VEHICLE ASSUMES ITS GLIDEPATH AND PREPARES TO **LAND!** MATT DURGAN AND TERRY PARKER HAVE COME BACK FROM SPACE!

ALTHOUGH THEIR CRAFT IS **NOT** THE ONE IN WHICH THEY DEPARTED, THE AMERICANS HAVE HAD **NO** DIFFICULTY IN OPERATING IT... ONCE THEY DISCOVERED THAT IT COULD BE GUIDED IN BY THE POWER OF **THOUGHT** ALONE...

WE'RE **HOME,** TERRY--

--WITH A WILD, **WILD** STORY TO TELL!

THE BARREN LANDING STRIP IS SOON OVERRUN BY A **VARIED** REPRESENTATION OF GOVERNMENT SERVICES. THEY STARE UNBELIEVINGLY AT THE **PHENOMENON** BEFORE THEM...

THAT'S **NOT** THE SHUTTLE PLANE WE SENT UP THERE!

DURGAN AND PARKER HAVE A **LOT** TO **EXPLAIN!**

AN EXPLANATION WILL BE MADE, BUT IT WILL BECOME THE CAUSE OF CONSTERNATION AND DOUBT AND **HOT** DEBATE. HOWEVER, THE AMERICANS **WILL** HAVE WHAT THEY **WANTED**--A REPORT FROM SPACE, AND TWO SAFE ASTRONAUTS...

LET'S **FACE** 'EM, PARKER --WITH THE FACTS AS WE **KNOW** THEM!

YEAH... **TERRIFIC!**

MEANWHILE, SOMEWHERE OVER THE SOUTH ATLANTIC OCEAN, THE **DEVIANTS** ATTEMPT A LANDING IN THE SHUTTLE PLANE. UNACQUAINTED WITH ITS CONTROLS, THEY BARREL IN AT **HIGH** SPEED TOWARD THE CHOPPY WATERS...

LOOK OUT!

AAAA!!

USA

THE RESULTANT **CRASH** IS HEARD FOR MILES AT SEA...

WAAAAM!!

HAVING EMBARKED ON A MISSION OF **SUICIDE** AND **MASS DESTRUCTION** THE DEVIANTS ACHIEVE THEIR END ON A **SMALLER** SCALE THAN THEY MAY HAVE DESIRED...

HOWEVER, IT IS THE LONE **ETERNAL** WHO FINISHES HIS TASK IN TRUE GRANDIOSE FASHION. THE **WRECKED** DEVIANT BOMB CAREENS OFF INTO SPACE LIKE A BLAZING PYRE--SELF-CONSUMING AND SPECTACULAR TO WITNESS.

CENTURIES OF ISOLATION **HAVEN'T** CHANGED THIS ETERNAL. A LEGENDARY **HERO** TO THE HUMANS, HE HAS LIVED UP TO HIS CALLING WITH **FULL** MEASURE.

NOW, HE DRIFTS FREE OF THE **FLAMING** WRECKAGE, UNTIL HIS INJURED BODY IS DRAWN INTO THE GIANT CELESTIAL SHIP. THERE IT RESTS... UNABLE TO FUNCTION... SMASHED BY AN ORDEAL OF **INDESCRIBABLE** LIMITS. THUS, WHEN THE HAND OF THE ONE ABOVE ALL REACHES FOR HIM, HIS FORM IS LIKE A FLEA IN ITS SHADOW. HOWEVER, HE IS A FLEA PROVEN **WORTHY OF THE GODS!!**

NEXT: AMAZING ACTION!

# KA-ZAR

BATTLES THE COSMIC-POWERED

# HULK

THE ETERNALS™

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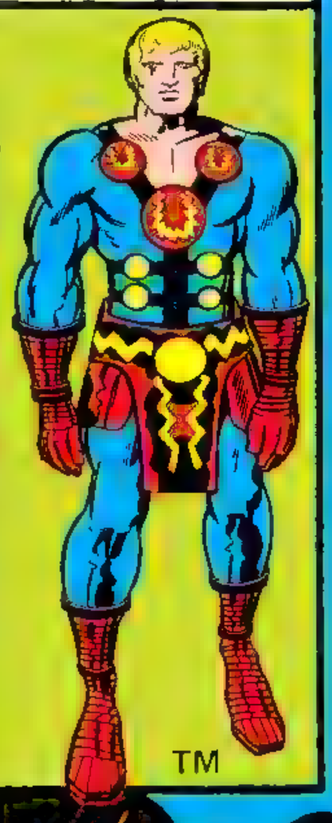

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# WHEN GODS WALK THE EARTH!

# THE ETERNALS™

FACE-TO-FACE AGAINST THE COSMIC-POWERED HULK!

Strange events have exposed a startling fact, kept alive through the centuries only by myth and superstition—man is not alone on the evolutionary chain!! He has shared the planet with two species unknown to him! Now, in a sudden burst of violence, the Deviants have risen from their domain beneath the sea to challenge all humanity!! But mankind has unexpected allies—

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WHAT HAPPENS WHEN THE STRANGEST ANIMAL EVER CONCEIVED ON EARTH... DESCENDS FROM THE SKY ??? IT GENERATES FANTASTIC FALLOUT, FOLKS! IT CURLS THE HAIR AND BLOWS THE MIND! IT EXPLODES INTO ACTION BETWEEN---

# IKARIS AND THE COSMIC POWERED HULK

INITIALLY, THERE IS NO HINT OF THE **EXTRA-ORDINARY** IN THE NIGHT AIR. IT BEGINS MERELY AS AN **UNEASY** FEELING THAT GRIPS DOCTOR **TIMOTHY RYAN** AS HE APPROACHES THE ENGINEERING PLANT ON THE GROUNDS OF THE **MARYLAND INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY...**

**WHA-!?** A LIGHT IN THE RESEARCH LAB!

I'VE EITHER DISCOVERED AN **EAGER BEAVER** OR A CLANDESTINE **PRANKSTER!**

IN ANY CASE, HE OR THEY SHALL SOON **LEARN** WHAT IT MEANS TO **BEND** THE RULES ON **THIS** CAMPUS!

THIS FACILITY IS **OFF LIMITS** AFTER CLASS HOURS! IF I HAVE TO DRILL THIS POINT HOME WITH A **POWER TOOL,** I'LL CERTAINLY **USE** ONE!

**HAHAHAHAH-!** DON'T CHICKEN OUT, RUSTY! HE'S ONLY A **WALKING** ELECTRONIC UNIT!

**GREAT HEAVENS!**

I **KNOW** THAT! BUT, IT'S ACTUALLY **HAIRY** TESTING HIM AT **CLOSE** QUARTERS!

H-HE'S LIKE THE **REAL** THING!

**GRAWW!**

SUDDENLY--!

**YEEOOWW!!** HE'S **SNATCHED** THE BAR FROM MY HANDS!

THE ROOM IS **SHAKEN** BY FRIGHTENING ROARS AS THE HUGE MAN-LIKE OBJECT **SURGES** MENACINGLY FORWARD...

LOOK OUT!

HE'S COMING FOR US WITH THAT IRON BAR!!

BACK OFF, RUSTY!!

# RAARR!!

HE'S OUT OF CONTROL!

# SMASH!

# CRASH!

DO SOMETHING, ARTHUR! OR **HE'LL**-

DON'T BLOW YOUR COOL!

I'LL HANDLE HIM!!

WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR!? HE'LL BEAT OUR BRAINS OUT!

I'VE *SHUT* HIS AGGRESSION CIRCUITS! NOW I'LL HIT HIM WITH THESE *BACK-UP SONICS!!*

RECKLESS YOUNG FOOLS!

*IT'S WORKING, RUSTY!* THE SONIC BEAM IS *DISRUPTING* ITS ELECTRO-WAVES!

GRUU-U-K!!

IT'S WINDING DOWN! IT *CAN'T* MOVE!

*LLLTT!*

Y-YOU'VE *DONE* IT, ARTHUR! W-WE'RE *SAFE!*

SURE! I WAS *NEVER* WORRIED!

*RAWWN--*

A FEW MORE *REFINE-MENTS* IN THE *REMOTE CONTROL* SYSTEM SHOULD SEE THIS JOB *FINISHED!!*

YEAH! THE OTHERS WILL *FLIP* WHEN WE FINALLY *TELL* THEM--

*-- WE'VE BUILT OLD "GREENSKIN!" --THE FABULOUS INCREDIBLE HULK!*

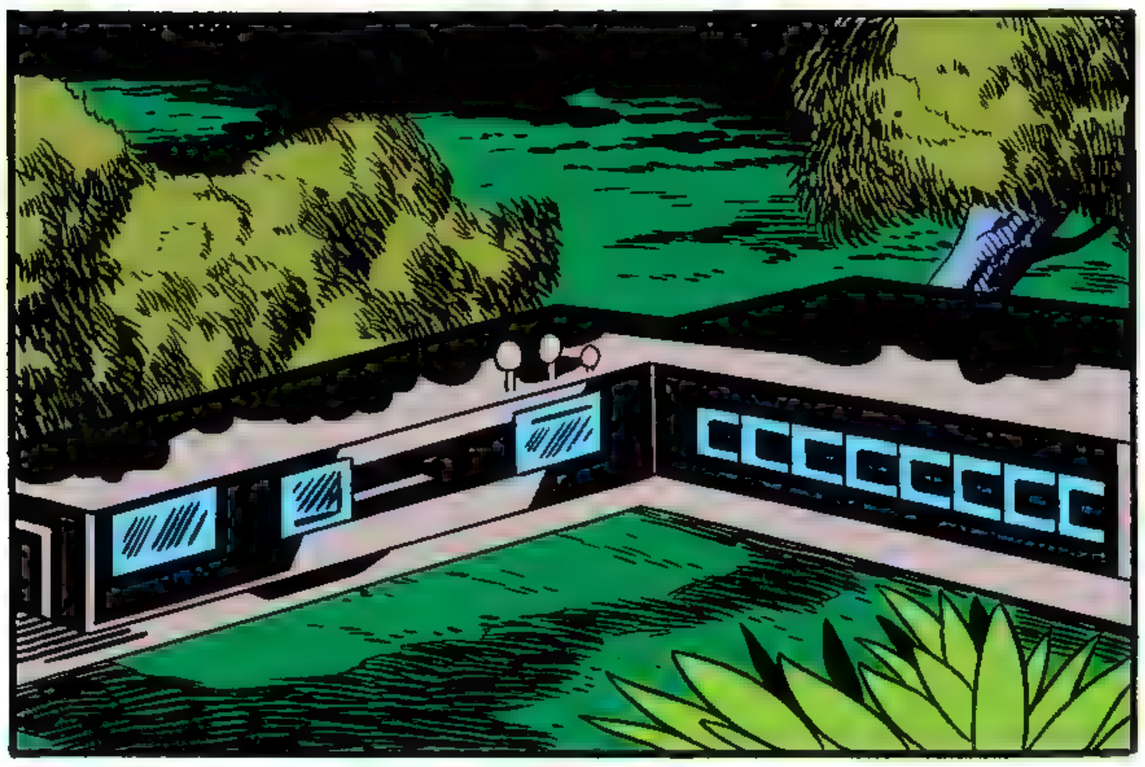
*THEY'LL PANIC!!*

*AND YOU TWO SHALL PROMPTLY BE EXPELLED!*

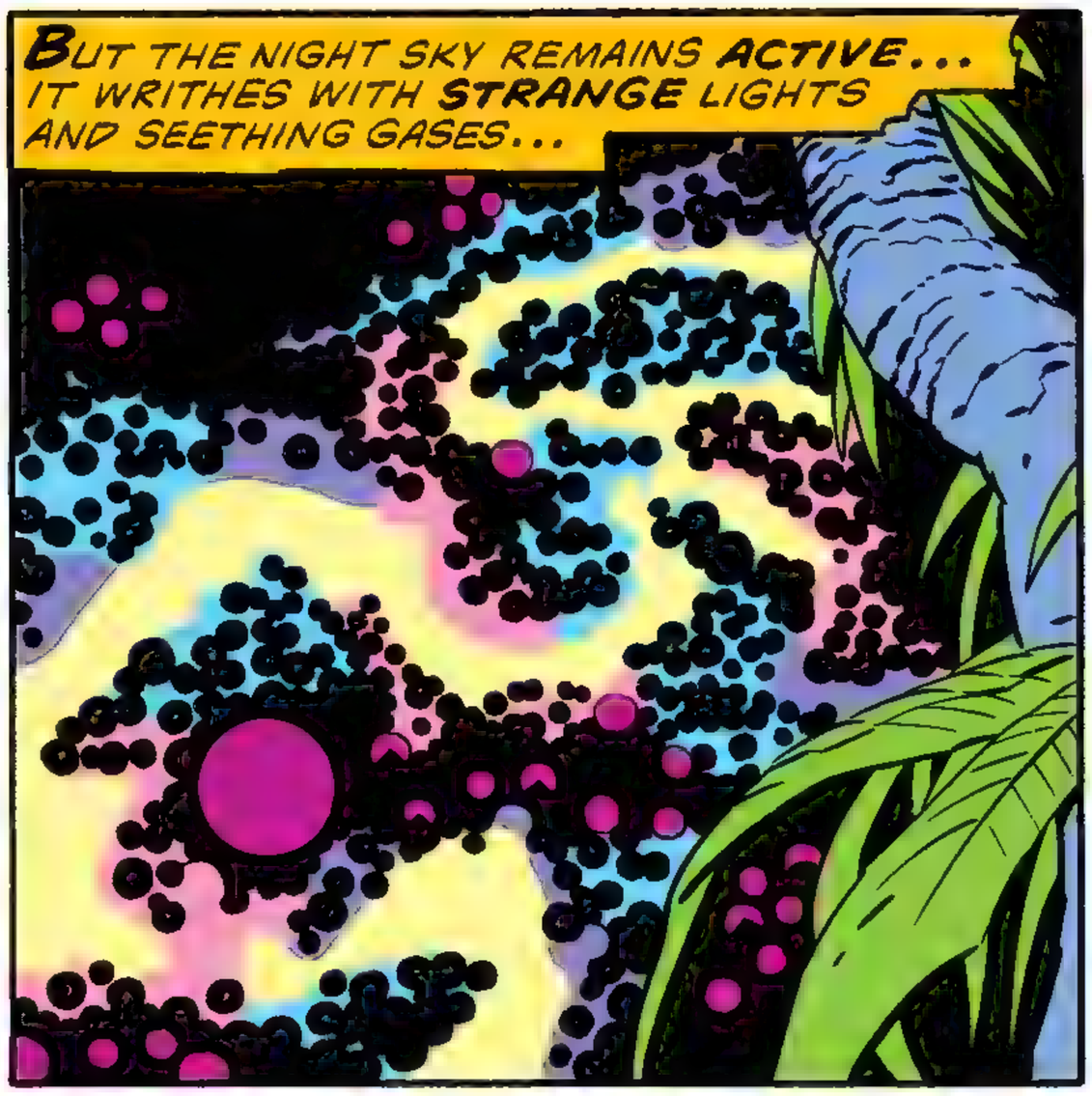
I'VE *NEVER* WITNESSED SUCH *DEPLORABLE* USE OF VALUABLE TIME AND MATERIEL!

HOLY COW!!
I-IT'S DOCTOR RYAN!
Y-YOU SAY THAT YOU --AHH-- WITNESSED IT--SIR--?
I SAW IT ALL--! AND I'M DEEPLY SHOCKED!!
B-BUT... YOU MUST UNDERSTAND, SIR! THIS IS NOT A SIMPLE PRANK! I-IT REPRESENTS HARD WORK ON THE PART OF THE ENTIRE CLASS!
YOU SEE... WE--
--W-WE NEEDED A MASCOT FOR THE ALL-STAR GAME, SO WE DECIDED TO BUILD ONE!
OUR PURPOSE WAS TO MARCH THE HULK DOWN THE FIELD WITH THE SCHOOL BAND!
A MOST FASCINA-TING THOUGHT!
I-IT WOULD BE A SPECTACULAR SIGHT, SIR!
W-WHY... EVERY MEMBER OF OUR TEAM IS A HULK FAN! H-HE COULD LIFT THEIR SPIRITS! HELP THEM WIN THE GAME!
AND... NO DOUBT BE CALLED UPON TO MAKE THE CRUCIAL PLAY!
I WANT THIS--THIS HAZARD TO LIFE AND LIMB ELIMINATED!!!
RIGHT NOW!!
SURELY, SIR, YOU DON'T MEAN THAT YOU WANT US TO--
B-BUT WE KNOW WHERE THE BUGS ARE... ALL THAT'S NEEDED IS--
ENOUGH--! YOU TWO ARE TESTING MY PATIENCE AND GOOD NATURE!
VERY WELL, SIR... IF YOU WILL EXCUSE US TONIGHT, WE'LL BEGIN TO... DISASSEMBLE HIM... TOMORROW.
SEE THAT YOU DO! I EXPECT EVERY BIT OF PLASTIC AND WIRE IN THIS TOY TO VANISH AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE!

TOMORROW IS EVER THE WORD FOR TOO LATE! THIS NIGHT IS FATED TO SPAWN THE UNEXPECTED WHEN THE POTENT FORCES OF THE UNKNOWN ERUPT FROM ABOVE. SILENCE HOVERS ABOUT THE RESEARCH LAB. THE STUDENTS HAVE PLACED THE ELECTRONIC HULK IN HIS BOX AND LEFT THE PREMISES...



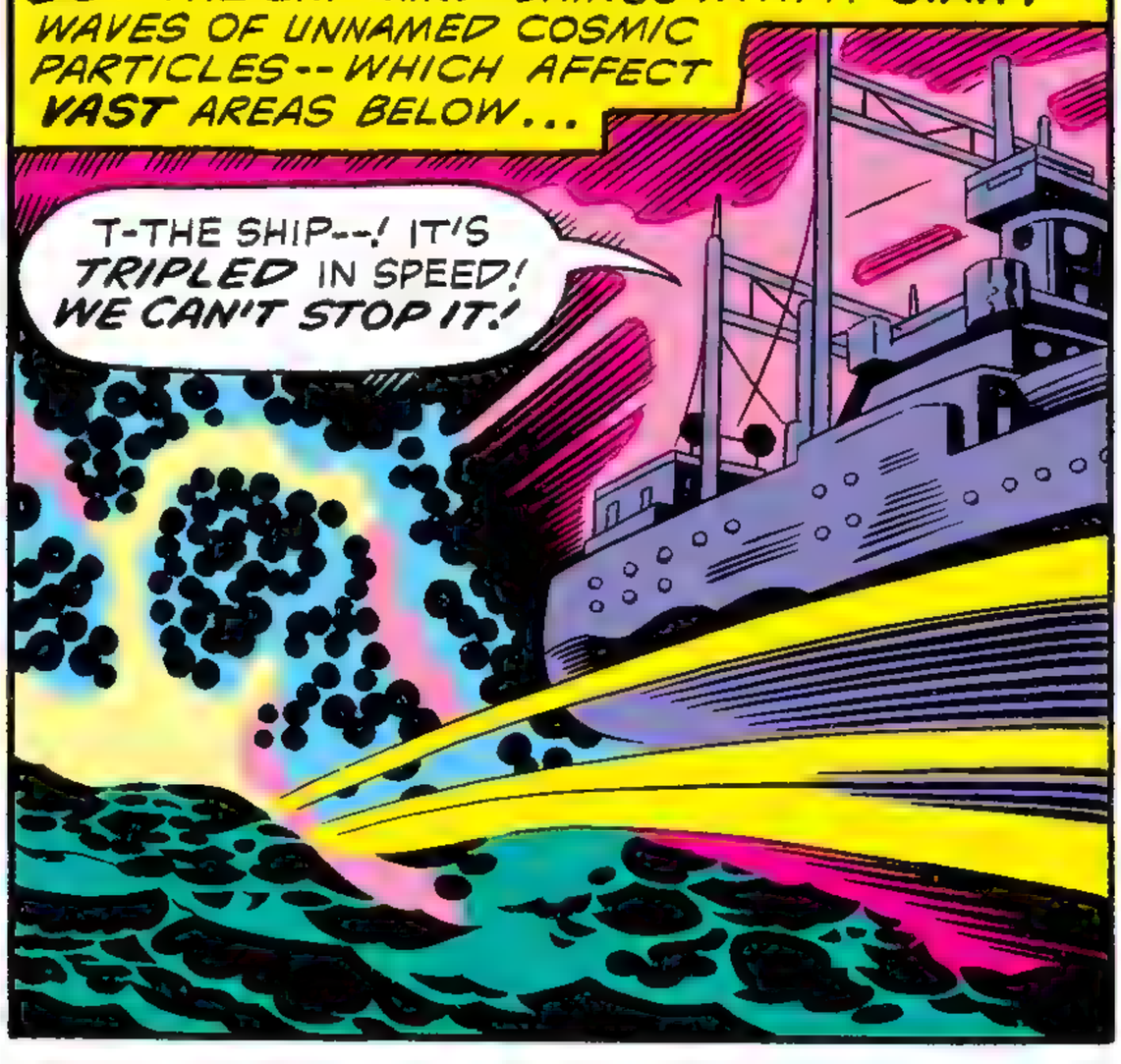
BUT THE NIGHT SKY REMAINS ACTIVE... IT WRITHES WITH STRANGE LIGHTS AND SEETHING GASES...



THE SOURCE IS A MARVEL OF BIZARRE LIFE. THE UNI-MIND, AN ORGANISM BROUGHT INTO BEING AMONG THE ETERNALS, NOW DESCENDS TO ITS HOME PLANET-- EARTH...

BUT THE UNI-MIND BRINGS WITH IT GIANT WAVES OF UNNAMED COSMIC PARTICLES--WHICH AFFECT VAST AREAS BELOW...

T-THE SHIP--! IT'S TRIPLED IN SPEED! WE CAN'T STOP IT!



MECHANISMS IN MANY PLACES ARE SATURATED BY THE PARTICLES, AND MOVE WITH WILLS OF THEIR OWN...

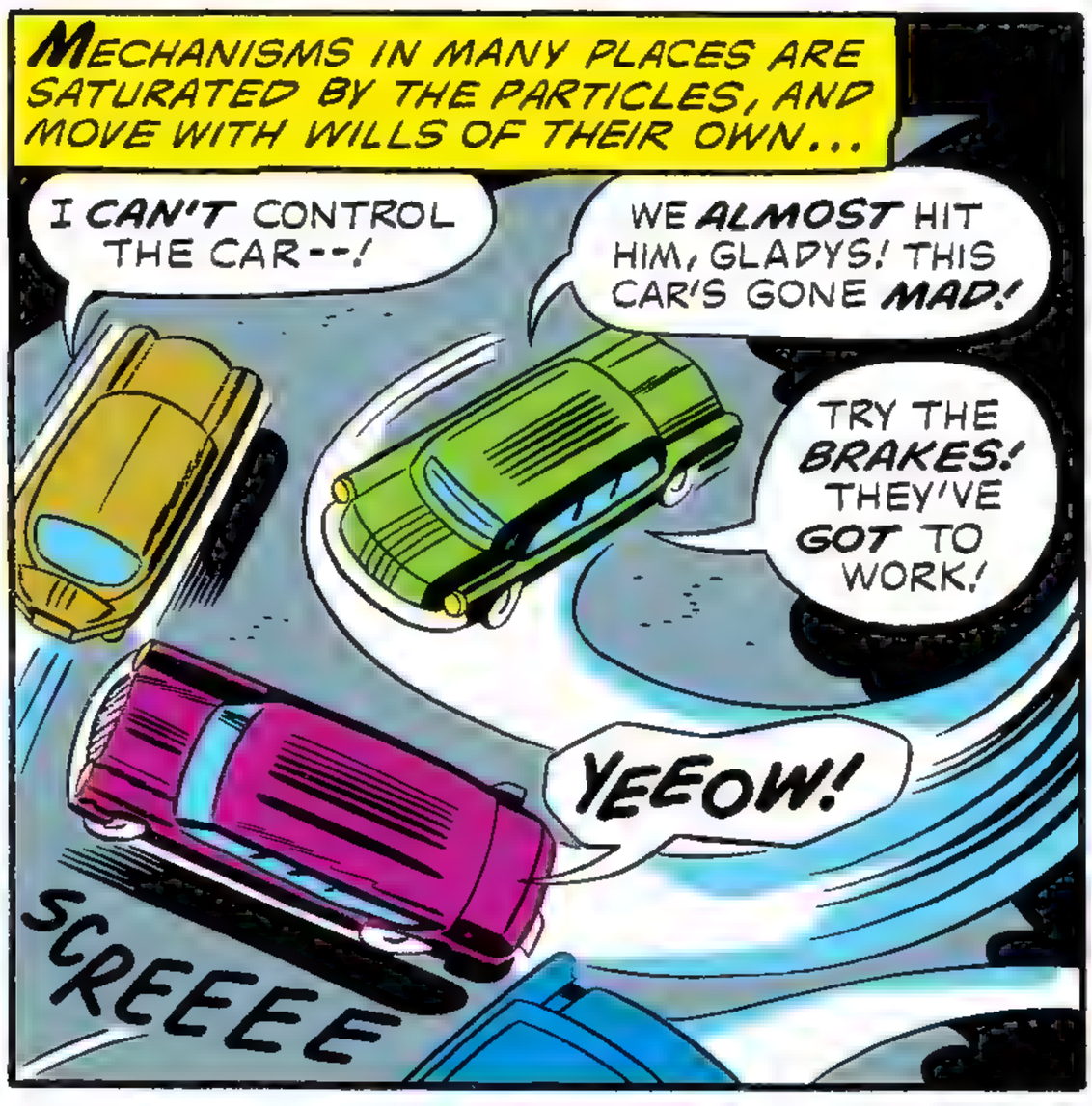
I CAN'T CONTROL THE CAR--!

WE ALMOST HIT HIM, GLADYS! THIS CAR'S GONE MAD!

TRY THE BRAKES! THEY'VE GOT TO WORK!

YEEOW!

SCREEEE



MOTIONLESS IN ITS BOX, THE NEO-HULK IS ANOTHER **RECIPIENT** OF THE SUBSTANCE FROM THE STARS. ITS PLASTIC BODY **ABSORBS** IT-- AND **CHANGES** WITHIN...

**THE HULK'S EYES SNAP OPEN!** THERE IS NO REMOTE-CONTROL APPARATUS ON EARTH THAT CAN **STOP** IT NOW...

AT THIS MOMENT, THE UNI-MIND COMES TO REST AT ITS POINT OF **ORIGIN**: AMONG THE MOUNTAINS OF **OLYMPIA**...

THEN IT BEGINS TO **DISSOLVE** INTO ITS SIMPLER, BUT FANTASTIC COMPONENTS... FOR THE UNI-MIND IS A **GROUP** ANIMAL, FORMED BY MANY LIVING BEINGS...

OLYMPIA, CITY OF THE ETERNALS, IS **SHARPLY** SILHOUETTED BY THE COSMIC GLOW OF THE **AMAZING** PROCESS...

ETERNALS... REAPPEAR--!!

THE COMMAND IS GIVEN BY GREAT **ZURAS**, ELDEST OF ALL OLYMPIAN ETERNALS, AND TRADITIONALLY THE **FIRST** TO RETURN...

I DECLARE THE RITUAL AT AN *END!*

SOON AFTER, THE **EMPTY** SPACES OF THE CITY BEGIN TO BURGEON WITH THE LEVITATING THRONGS WHICH HAD **DESERTED** THEM...

RECEIVE US, OLYMPIA! YOUR BUILDERS RETURN!

AS PART OF THE UNI-MIND, WE'VE ACHIEVED **NEW** PERSPECTIVES!

**ALL MEN MUST BECOME AS ONE!**

**IKARIS!** HELP ME! I-I'M STILL **FRIGHTENED!**

HASN'T THE EXPERIENCE OF UNI-MIND GIVEN YOU **ANY** CONFIDENCE AT ALL?

I-I'M **NOT** AN ETERNAL! I **CAN'T** LEVITATE! IT JUST **SCARES** ME SILLY!

IT WAS **I** WHO LEVITATED YOU! I'D **NEVER** HAVE DROPPED YOU, MARGO!

MARGO DAMIAN SHOULD BE DROPPED ON HER **HEAD!** AND THAT GOES FOR YOU AS WELL, **SAM HOLDEN!**

WE **ARE** WHEN IT COMES TO **THIS** SORT OF THING, SERSI!

YOU **HUMANS** ARE IN-CORRIGIBLE **SOFTIES!**

OH, I **KNOW** THAT YOU WERE HELPING ME TO LEVITATE... BUT DON'T YOU SEE? I-I'M **PROGRAMMED** TO RELEGATE THIS KIND OF FACULTY TO MYTHICAL WITCHES AND WARLOCKS!

HI-HO... WHAT **ELSE** IS NEW? HUMAN FEARS SEEM **END-LESS!!**

TO **ME,** LEVITATION IS **IMPOSSIBLE!**

LET'S NOT *TEASE* OUR GUESTS, SERSI! THEY NEED *TIME* TO SORT THINGS OUT!

T-THANK YOU, IKARIS. *I* FOR ONE WOULD LIKE TO RETURN *HOME!*

THAT'S A *WONDERFUL* SUGGESTION, SAM! IT'S GIVEN ME A *NOVEL* IDEA!

WE'LL GO BACK TO NEW YORK AND THROW A *UNI-MIND PARTY!*

*HAHAHAH!* "ALL FOR ONE AND ONE FOR ALL!" IT'S A *GREAT* THEME, SERSI!

*THERE!* IT DIDN'T TAKE LONG FOR MAKARRI TO *CATCH ON!*

ARE YOU *WITH IT,* MARGO?

*I'LL* TAKE CHARGE OF MARGO. SHE NEEDS REST AND SERENITY.

PLEASE-- *PLEASE!* I--I DON'T KNOW!

*TRUST* ME, YOUNG LADY. AFTER ALL... I DO HAVE *THOUSANDS* OF YEARS OF EXPERIENCE IN THESE MATTERS!

IKARIS *HASN'T* FAILED ME YET! I'LL *TAKE* HIS ADVICE.

THEN IT'S *SETTLED!* WE'LL GO BACK TO NEW YORK... BUT EACH TO SEEK WHAT SERVES HIM *BEST!*

*I'LL* BUY THAT!

AND *YOU,* MAKARRI?

WHAT SERVES ME BEST IS TO SERVE MY *FRIENDS!*

*BEHOLD!* MY *LATEST* VEHICLE!

*SUMMONED BY MAKARRI'S THOUGHT ALONE, THE EGG-SHAPED CRAFT MAKES ITS APPEARANCE...*

I FASHIONED THIS FOR *COMFORT* AS WELL AS SPEED! YOU SHALL ENJOY TRANSPORT AS *NONE* HAVE BEFORE!

BUT THINGS **UNFORSEEN** WILL MAKE THE TRAVELERS YEARN FOR A BATTLE-CRAFT...

CRASH!

FAR FROM OLYMPIA, THE COSMIC-POWERED **HULK** HAS BURST INTO FRESH ACTIVITY...

BAM!

LIKE SOME **PRIMITIVE** BEAST FROM THE DIM PAST, HE **SMASHES** THE WALL OF THE RESEARCH PLANT AND **ROARS** INTO VIEW...

AAARRRR!!

THE EYES FLARE. THE **MASSIVE** JAW BARES ITS TEETH TO THE NIGHT. **NO** DIAL OR PUSH-BUTTON HAS SPARKED THE **FURY** REFLECTED IN THAT FACE...

RRR!

IT IS AN ANGER, MYSTERIOUSLY STIRRED... AND **BLINDLY** OBEYED!

RIP!

THE HULK **ADVANCES** WITH RELENTLESS STEPS! HE IS A LIVING HAMMER WHICH STRIKES **HARD** AT ANY OBSTACLE IN HIS PATH...

**HE** SOON LEAVES THE CAMPUS **BEHIND** HIM. HIS INSTINCTS CRY OUT FOR THE SIGHT OF AN **ENEMY**...

AND ON THE OPEN HIGHWAY HE **FINDS** HIM! THE ENEMY RIDES IN A SWIFTLY APPROACHING VAN...

LOOK AT THAT **FOOL** IN THE CENTER OF THE ROAD!

HONK! HONK!

JUMPING JUPITER--! HE'S A **MONSTER!**

DON'T STOP! **KEEP GOING!**

**SUDDENLY--!**

DID YOU SEE THAT!? HE JUMPED CLEAR **OVER** US--!

I-I **DON'T** BELIEVE IT!

MUCH TO THEIR CHAGRIN AND ALARM, THE TRAVELERS DISCOVER THAT THE HULK HASN'T CLEARED THEM AT ALL...

H-HE'S LANDED ON THE ROOF OF THE VAN!

WOMP!

INCREASE YOUR SPEED! TRY TO SHAKE HIM OFF!

MEANWHILE, LIKE A BRIGHT COMET FLASHING ACROSS THE CURTAIN OF STARS, THE CRAFT OF MAKARRI SPANS THE CONTINENTS...

MUST YOU TRAVEL THIS FAST? WE SHALL HAVE LITTLE TIME TO MAKE OURSELVES AT EASE!

AS YOU WISH, SERSI!

IT IS IKARIS WHOSE SHARP EYE CATCHES THE FIRST SIGN OF TROUBLE AHEAD...

LOOK TO YOUR INSTRUMENT PANEL, MAKARRI! IT **GLOWS** FROM STRANGE FORCES!

B-BUT THIS **CAN'T** BE! NOT IN **HUMAN** AREAS!

OH DEAR! I WONDER WHAT **NEW** MISCHIEF HAS BEEN BORN AMONG YOUR SPECIES, SAM!

THE HYDROGEN BOMB IS QUITE ENOUGH FOR **ME!**

THIS INDICATES **MORE** THAN THAT, HOLDEN!

**COSMIC POWER!** THE SIGNS ARE **UNMISTAKEABLE!**

IT'S DEFINITELY BEING GENERATED SOMEWHERE IN THE **UNITED STATES!**

WE'LL BE ABLE TO **PINPOINT** THE EXACT SPOT MOMENTARILY!

A **DETOUR** IS IN ORDER, SERSI!

YOUR PLANS FOR A PARTY WILL HAVE TO **WAIT!**

**RIDICULOUS!!** THE HUMANS DON'T HAVE COSMIC POWER! THIS IS SOME **MISTAKE!**

**THAT'S** WHAT WE MUST INVES-TIGATE!

SECONDS LATER, THE AREA IS LOCATED, AND A **BURNING** VAN ILLUMINATES THE SCENE LIKE A BLAZING TORCH...

IT SEEMS THE COSMIC POWER HAS **NOT** BEEN WISELY USED!

THIS HIGHWAY IS **LITTERED** WITH WRECKAGE. OUR UNKNOWN SUBJECT **HASN'T** SLACKENED HIS PACE!

THERE'S **MORE** OF HIS HANDI-WORK AHEAD!

WE'RE **BADLY** NEEDED HERE, MAKARRI! THE HUMANS ARE **UNABLE** TO COPE WITH A ROGUE OF THIS KIND!

I HEAR THE CRACKLE OF GUNFIRE! THE **OBJECT** OF OUR SEARCH MUST BE **NEARBY!**

BEYOND THE KNOTS OF **FRIGHTENED** ONLOOKERS, A **FUTILE** SHOOTOUT IS IN PROGRESS...

WE **CAN'T** STOP HIM! HAVE THEY SENT FOR **HEAVIER** STUFF?

POW POW!

IT'S ON THE WAY!

THE ETERNALS ARE **QUICK** TO JOIN THE ACTION. IT IS A BATTLE THAT MUST BE **CONTAINED** ON THESE GROUNDS!

THIS IS **NO** TIME FOR CAUTION, MARGO! THERE'S A **HOLOCAUST** IN THE MAKING HERE!

AS THE **SWIFTEST** AMONG US, MAKARRI SHALL DEAL WITH IT **FIRST!**

BE **CAREFUL,** IKARIS!

MAKARRI'S **FLEETNESS** IS SUDDENLY MET BY **SWIFTER** ACTION!

UGH-H!

**CRASH!**

HE EXPERIENCES **TOTAL** SURPRISE BEFORE HE PASSES OUT! HAD MAKARRI SEEN HIS ADVERSARY, HE'D HAVE SURELY WONDERED HOW THIS HULK COULD POSSIBLY **SURPASS** HIM IN SPEED...

IKARIS! THAT THING'S GOT MAKARRI!

I-IT'S AN INCREDIBLE CREATURE! NEITHER HUMAN NOR ETERNAL!

IF IT **DROPS** MAKARRI FROM THAT ROOFTOP, THE FALL WILL **NOT** KILL HIM--BUT IT COULD INJURE HIM FOR **ETERNITY!**

DO AS I **TELL** YOU, SERSI! **STAND BY TO LEVITATE MAKARRI!** USE ALL OF YOUR POWER!

IKARIS THEN **SURGES** FORWARD WITH FORCEFUL INTENT...

MAKARRI IS IN DANGER EACH SECOND HE REMAINS IN THAT **POWERFUL** GRIP! HE'LL BE CRUSHED TO A **PULP!**

I MUST **FORCE** THE THING TO **RELEASE** HIM AND TURN TO ME!

MAKARRI IS SUDDENLY FLUNG INTO SPACE LIKE A MISSILE! ONLY HIS UNCANNY READINESS SAVES IKARIS FROM A TERRIBLE COLLISION WITH HIS FRIEND...

SERSI--! NOW!

GREAT ZURAS--!

LEVITATING MAKARRI WILL BE LIKE SLOWING DOWN A ROCKET SLED AND CAUSING IT TO DRIFT TO EARTH WITH THE EASE OF A FEATHER!!

BUT-- I CAN DO IT!

SERSI IS TRUE TO HER WORD. WITH GREAT SKILL SHE UTILIZES HER POWERS TO BRING MAKARRI TO REST WITHOUT FURTHER INJURY...

MAKARRI'S BEEN HURT, DOCTOR HOLDEN!

THIS WAY!

I'M WITH YOU, CHILD!

H-HE'S BADLY BRUISED-- BUT NO MORE THAN THAT.

LUCKILY, SERSI WAS AT HAND!

HAD HE STRUCK AN OBJECT AT THE SPEED WITH WHICH HE SAILED FROM THAT ROOF--THIS MIGHT HAVE ENDED DIFFERENTLY!

WHATEVER STRUCK HIM DOWN IS STILL ON THAT ROOFTOP --TURNING ITS SAVAGE STRENGTH ON --IKARIS!!

AND IF IT'S USING COSMIC POWER, I-I DON'T FEEL HOPEFUL ABOUT HIS CHANCES!

AT THAT VERY MOMENT, IKARIS HURLS HIMSELF UPON THE FOE!

WE SHALL SEE HOW YOU DEAL WITH A *POLAR* ETERNAL!

WAM!

MINE IS A *HARDY* AND DETERMINED BREED!

POW!

THESE BLOWS COULD FELL A *MAMMOTH!* YET, HIS FEET STAND *FIRMLY* PLANTED!

KRAK!

ZOK!

FALL, BLAST YOU!

INSTEAD OF CRUMBLING, THE HULK LASHES OUT WITH A **MIGHTY** HAND WHICH CLOSES UPON IKARIS LIKE A **STEEL** VISE!

IKARIS **DESPERATELY** FREES HIMSELF!

TZAM!

SHEER FORCE *WON'T* STOP THIS MONSTER! HIS STRENGTH IS *WITHOUT* PEER!

HE'S *SNAPPED* THAT IRON BAR AS *EASILY* AS ONE WOULD A MATCH STICK!

KRAK!

THE COSMIC PARTICLES WITHIN HIM HAVE WROUGHT A MENACE OF *UNPARALLELED* POWER! THIS CAN NO LONGER BE AN *ORDINARY* BATTLE!

IF YOU WISH TO LAY *BARE* THE SKULL OF AN ETERNAL, LOOK NOT TO THAT WEAPON, MY SAVAGE FRIEND -- BUT TO THE *MYSTERIES* THAT LIVE AND FUNCTION IN THIS *BRAIN!*

*THE EYES OF IKARIS BEGIN TO GLOW WITH **DEMON FIRE**, SUMMONED IN MOMENTS OF **DIRE** STRESS...*

*TWIN **DISINTEGRATING** BEAMS LEAP OUT TOWARD THE ADVANCING HULK!*

I PRAY THAT THIS IS *EQUAL* TO HIS *OWN* COSMIC FORCES!!

FSSH!

*WANT TO KNOW WHAT HAPPENS NEXT? DON'T MISS..*

DISASTER AREA

THE ETERNALS™

# MARVEL® COMICS GROUP

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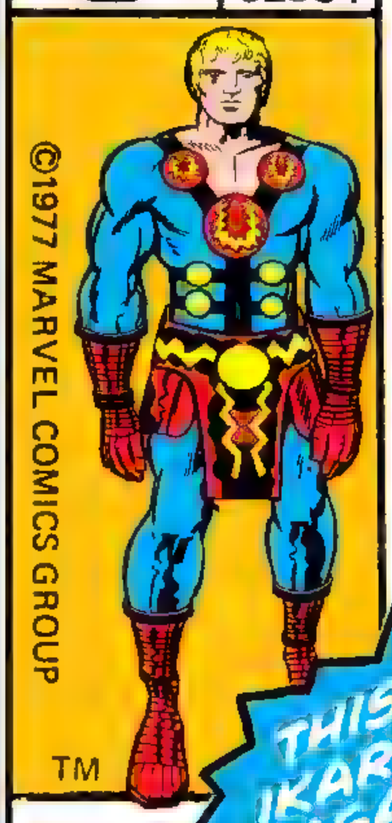

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## WHEN GODS WALK THE EARTH!

# THE ETERNALS™

### FINAL FURY AS TITANS CLASH!

THIS ISSUE! IKARIS ALONE AGAINST THE COSMIC-POWERED HULK!

RAGING BATTLE TURNS AN ENTIRE CITY INTO A

## DISASTER AREA!

Strange events have exposed a startling fact, kept alive through the centuries only by myth and superstition—man is not alone on the evolutionary chain!! He has shared the planet with two species unknown to him! Now, in a sudden burst of violence, the Deviants have risen from their domain beneath the sea to challenge all humanity!! But mankind has unexpected allies—

# Stan Lee PRESENTS: THE ETERNALS!™

EDITED, WRITTEN, AND DRAWN BY **JACK KIRBY** • LETTERS 'N' INKS: **MICHAEL ROYER** • COLORED BY **GLYNIS WEIN** • APPRECIATED BY **ARCHIE GOODWIN**

*IKARIS, THE ETERNAL, AND THE COSMIC-POWERED HULK... A FIGHTING MATCH FORMED BY AN ACCIDENT FROM THE STARS EXPANDS INTO A BRAWL WHICH THREATENS THE LIFE AND PROPERTY OF AN ENTIRE CITY! BUT, WITHIN THE VERY NATURE OF THIS STRANGE INCIDENT LIES A DARK **THREAT** TO ALL HUMANITY! IT COULD MAKE THIS **PLANET** A --*

## DISASTER AREA

THAT GREEN HULK OF A CREATURE HAS ***RESISTED*** MY EVERY EFFORT TO HALT ITS RAMPAGE!

I'VE NO CHOICE BUT TO ***BLAST*** IT WITH ***DISINTEGRATING BEAMS!!***

ZZZ

IKARIS, THE ETERNAL, AND HIS FRIENDS HAVE **STUMBLED** INTO A FANTASTIC SITUATION, SPUN BY THE VAGARIES OF FATE! A THING WITHOUT LIFE HAS SUDDENLY **ACQUIRED** IT! BUT, IT IS A THING IN THE IMAGE OF A MOST **DESTRUCTIVE** PERSONALITY!

HE'S **LEAPED** OUT OF RANGE! THIS **MUSCLE-BOUND** MAMMOTH IS CAPABLE OF **AMAZING** COUNTER-MOVES!

**NEVER** BY MAN OR CREATURE BORN OF **COSMIC BACKLASH!**

WE MUST FOLLOW HIM AND **QUELL** THIS WILD RAMPAGE!

GET OUT OF HIS WAY, **SERSI--!** YOU HAVE A LOVELY **NECK,** BUT IT CAN EASILY BE **SNAPPED!**

**HULK**

LEVITATING WITH SERSI, IKARIS JOINS IN THE PURSUIT OF THEIR QUARRY...

INCREDIBLE! HE'S LEAPED ACROSS *HALF* THE CITY IN A *FEW* MIGHTY BOUNDS!

HIS STRENGTH AND SPEED ARE *UNPARALLELED*-- EVEN FOR SUCH A POWER-FULLY STRUCTURED BODY!

THERE'S NO TELLING HOW MUCH COSMIC POWER HE'S *ABSORBED!* WE MAY YET BE WITNESS TO *WONDERS* BEYOND THIS!

OR *DESTRUCTION* BEYOND MEASURE!

*SERSI'S ARM SUDDENLY FLASHES FORWARD... A WEAPON OF GRACE AND POWER, COMMON TO ALL FEMALE ETERNALS...*

HE IS *STILL* MADE OF THE ELEMENTS OF *MATTER!* I CAN STRIKE AT HIS *MOLECULAR* PATTERN!

TZIIKK!

*MOMENTS LATER, THE COSMIC HULK BECOMES THE CARRIER OF HEAVY DENSITY MOLECULES! HIS BODY NOW WEIGHS MORE THAN A TON-- AND CRASHES IN MID-FLIGHT!*

WAMM!

I'VE *DONE* IT, IKARIS! OUR BARREL-CHESTED BIRD IS *DOWN!*

BY ZURAS -- HE'S TURNING TO *STONE!* IN A MOMENT HE'LL BE NOTHING MORE THAN A *GARGOYLE,* FIT ONLY TO MOUNT ON SOME PROMINENT EDIFICE!

WE'VE *WON,* IKARIS!

THE DANGER HAS *PASSED!*

BUT SOMEWHERE DEEP WITHIN THE MYSTERIOUS CAULDRON OF THE CREATURE'S BODY THERE IS A **SUDDEN** VIOLENT ERUPTION OF COSMIC ENERGY! IT SWEEPS OUTWARD... BLAZING... **ACTIVE--!!**

IT ENVELOPES ITS HOST IN A CLOUD OF WHITE FIRE! THE STONE EYES BEGIN TO **GLOW!** THE **JAGGED** LIPS DRAW BACK IN ONE FIERCE MOTION! **THE PSEUDO-HULK IS ALIVE!!**

RRRRRR

THEN...

H-HE'S BEEN REVITALIZED! WE'RE FIGHTING A COSMIC **GENERATOR!**

WE'VE GOT TO STOP IT!

STAY BACK, SERSI!

IKARIS HURLS HIMSELF AT THE HULK--AND IS MET BY A HUGE POWER-DRIVEN **FIST!**

KRAKK!!

OH, NO--!

NO!

BLAM!

BEFORE SERSI CAN RUSH TO THE AID OF IKARIS, SHE IS ROUGHLY **SEIZED** BY THE POWERFUL HULK!

**GREAT ZURAS!** THIS MACHO MURDER MACHINE THINKS I'M SOME SORT OF ***P-PLAYTHING!***

HIS GRIP IS ***UNBREAKABLE!*** AND HE LIKES TO ***TRAVEL!!***

THE NIGHT SEEMS TO BE FILLED WITH TRAVELERS! --THOSE WHO **FLEE** THE SCENE OF HOLOCAUST--AND THE **OTHERS,** WHO ARE ***DRAWN*** TO IT...

B-BUT WHAT CAN WE DO WHEN WE ***REACH*** THAT ***THING,*** MAKARRI!?

THOUGH WE BE ***SORELY*** TRIED, WE SHALL ***CONTINUE*** TO HELP IN THIS FIGHT!

***HUH!*** THAT'S EASY FOR ***YOU*** TO SAY! ETERNALS ***CAN'T*** BE KILLED--!

***PLEASE,*** PROFESSOR HOLDEN... WE ***MUSTN'T*** THINK OF OUR OWN SAFETY!

SORRY, MARGO... I-I ***DIDN'T*** MEAN TO SOUND LIKE A MOUSE, BUT THIS IS ***NO*** ORDINARY STREET BRAWL!

LIFE IS ***NOT*** EDEN, PROFESSOR! THE SUN ***DOES*** GO DOWN --AND DARKNESS HAS ITS ***HAZARDS!***

WE'RE FACING SOMETHING ***FEAR-SOME!***

A-AND THE NEED FOR ***UNITY!***

AT THAT VERY MOMENT...

***RELEASE*** ME, YOU BRUTAL ZOMBIE! MY BONES ***CAN'T*** TAKE THIS PRESSURE!

***THERE'S*** OUR QUARRY! ***H-HE'S*** GOT ***SERSI!***

HE'S TAKEN HER TO THE TOWER OF THAT TALL BUILDING!

MY GOD! H-HE'S GOING TO DO THE *KING KONG* BIT! H-HOW WILL WE DEAL WITH *THIS!?*

VERY *CAREFULLY*, MARGO --AND WITH THE POWERS I'VE *INSTILLED* IN THIS VESSEL!

*LOOK!* HE'S TEARING THE TOWER *LOOSE!*

KRAK!

*WITH **FRIGHTENING** EASE THE POWERFUL CREATURE RAISES THE **MASSIVE** TOWER ABOVE HIS HEAD!*

T-THAT'S *MAKARRI'S* CRAFT!

HE'S GOING TO *SMASH* IT! A-AND I'M *TOO* WEAK TO STOP HIM!

*THE **HUGE** EDIFICE IS THROWN AT MISSILE SPEED! **NOTHING** IN ITS PATH CAN **SURVIVE!***

*MAKARRI! IT'S GOING TO HIT US--!*

SWIISSSH!

*HOWEVER, THE VEHICLES OF MAKARRI ARE KNOWN TO BE **MIRACLES** OF SPEED! THIS ONE **BARELY** ESCAPES TOTAL DESTRUCTION!*

EEEYAA!

ZZZWOOOSSH!

*HOLD STEADY, FRIENDS!!*

ZZZSSH!

W-WE DID IT! I-I MEAN *YOU* DID IT, MAKARRI! I'VE *NEVER* SEEN ANYTHING MANEUVER LIKE THIS SHIP!

YOU'VE YET TO SEE *MORE!* BUT I SHALL HAVE TO LEVITATE US FOR OUR OWN *SAFETY!*

I-I HAVE THE *DISTINCT* FEELING THAT I MAY HAVE TO *SCREAM!*

THE FOLLOWING MOMENT, MAKARRI'S SHIP JOLTS FORWARD AT **TERRIFYING** SPEED! IT CREATES A SHOCK-WAVE WHICH **FLINGS** THE HULK FROM HIS PERCH!

BOOOM!!!

RUMBLING ECHOES **SHAKE** THE CITY IN THE WAKE OF THE FLASHING VESSEL! BUT, THE POWERFUL CREATURE **SURVIVES**... WHEN MORTALS WOULD HAVE **PERISHED!**

BLAST THE ABOMINATION!

WE DID NO MORE THAN **TOPPLE** HIM TO HIS KNEES!

**BRACE** YOURSELVES, FRIENDS!

WE MUST TRY **AGAIN!**

AN ENERGY SURGE BLAZES LIKE A BRIGHT **ANGRY** FLAME IN THE EYES OF THE COSMIC PUPPET!

HE **RISES** TO FACE HIS ATTACK-ERS!

I'M **INCREASING** SPEED, NOW! PREPARE FOR A **SUDDEN** SHIFT TO **MAXIMUM!**

THEN HE LEAPS DIRECTLY INTO THE PATH OF MAKARRI'S SHIP! COLLISION SEEMS **INEVITABLE--!**

EAGER TO DESTROY HIS PREY, THE HULK STRIKES TOO SOON! HIS MIGHTY BLOW FALLS **SHORT** OF ITS MARK!

WOOSH!

BUT, THE BACKLASH OF HIS SWING IS POWERFUL ENOUGH TO SEND MAKARRI'S VESSEL RICOCHETING FROM BUILDING TO BUILDING!

SUDDENLY...

THERE HE IS! SHOOT TO KILL!!

BAM!

BAM! BAM!

THESE RIFLES CAN MAKE **SWISS CHEESE** OUT OF A TANK! YET WE **CAN'T** PUT A **DENT** IN THIS DINOSAUR!

KEEP MOVING AND KEEP **FIRING!** WE CAN'T TAKE HIM -- SO WE'VE GOT TO **SNUFF** HIM!!

YOU HOPE!

A **SEISMIC** TREMOR SHAKES THE ROOF AS THE CREATURE'S FOOT **SMASHES** DOWN!

CRASH!

HE'S CAVED THE ROOF IN! GRAB AT ANYTHING STABLE!

I-I CAN'T! I'M SLIPPING! CAN'T HOLD ON--!

MEANWHILE, IN ANOTHER SECTION OF THE CITY...

THIS TOWN IS GRIPPED BY TERROR, SIR! AS ONE INVOLVED WITH THESE EVENTS, CAN YOU TELL US WHAT'S HAPPENING!?

WH-WHAT IS THIS? WHO ARE YOU?

WHY, I'M WALTER REASONER OF G.B.C., OF COURSE! AND YOU'RE AN ETERNAL, AREN'T YOU?

I DON'T KNOW WHAT HE IS, MISTER! BUT I DO KNOW THAT HE PACKS A NUCLEAR PUNCH!

IS IT--OR IS IT NOT THE HULK THEY'RE SHOOTING AT UP THERE!?

HEY, MISTER REASONER! ASK HIM IF DOCTOR DOOM AN' THOR ARE FIGHTING TOO!

A FAIR QUESTION, SIR.

YEAH! IS IT TRUE THAT THE INHUMANS ARE COMING?

THESE COMIC FANS THINK THAT ALL OF MARVEL'S CHARACTERS ARE RUNNING AMUCK!

GO AHEAD, ETERNAL! SPEAK TO THE CAMERA!

YOUR BLOWING YOUR PRIORITIES! I'M NEEDED AT THE SOURCE OF THE TROUBLE!

WHAT'S REALLY HAPPENING!?

AAAH, SHOVE IT! LET THIS COOL DUDE TALK!

CAN YOU ELABORATE? TAKE ONE MINUTE!

GIVE US A *HALF* MINUTE!

*HOLY COW! H-HE'S LEVITATING!*

KEEP THE *CAMERA* ON HIM, LESTER!

*DON'T* CROWD THE STREETS, HUMANS! IT'S TOO *DANGEROUS!!* *STAY IN YOUR HOMES!*

*AND AT THAT MOMENT...*

*WHUM*

THAT WASN'T *BEETHOVEN'S NINTH!* THE ACTION IS GROWING *HOTTER!*

THE HULK IS IN *FULL* FLIGHT! THAT'S A CHANGE!

*EXPLOSIONS! FIREBALLS!*

SOMEONE'S GIVING THIS *RUNAMUCK* THE *FULL TREAT-MENT!!*

*THE VERY MOLECULES OF THE AIR SEEM TO HAVE TURNED UPON THE GREEN GOLIATH! DRIVEN TO **FRENZIED** ANGER, HE SEIZES A BRICK CHIMNEY TO USE AS A **WEAPON!***

*KKRAAK!*

*BUT THIS TOO IS **TRANSFORMED** INTO A **HOSTILE** SOURCE OF DANGER!*

*TSSSSS!!*

THESE *QUICK-CHANGE* ATTACKS ARE *RATTLING* OUR SEEMINGLY INVINCIBLE FOE!

GRAAAR!!

PSYCHOLOGICAL WARFARE MAY DO *MORE* FOR OUR SIDE THAN *BRUTE FORCE!*

*BRAVO, SERSI!*

I HEARD THAT--AND I *ACCEPT* THE PRAISE! BUT I HAVEN'T BEGUN TO USE THE *TRICKS* IN STORE FOR THAT LEAPING LIZARD !!

YOUR GIMMICKS BUY US *TIME*... AND NOTHING MORE!

YOU'VE YET TO SEE THE *REST* OF THE BAG! MY NEXT TRICK WILL SEND HIM LEAPING TO THE *MOON!*

JUST *WATCH!*

I SAID *NO*, SERSI!

*ARROGANT MALE!*

MY EFFORTS MAY ONLY BUY US TIME, BUT ALL YOU'VE GOTTEN US IS -- *LAUGHS!*

THAT'S ALL TOO *TRUE*, SERSI! THAT'S WHY THIS SITUATION GROWS MORE *FEARFUL* EACH PASSING SECOND!

EVEN **BOORS** CAN ACQUIRE THE KNACK OF BEING **RIGHT!**

OH, IKARIS! WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF WE **CAN'T** STOP HIM!

H-HE'S LIKE SOME UNKNOWN **ORGANISM** INFECTED WITH THE **POWER OF THE GODS!**

YES... AND HE'LL **USE** THEM! THE HAVOC WILL **SPREAD** IF THIS POWER GROWS **STRONGER!**

I TELL YOU, SERSI, THAT THE SIGNS ARE **NOT** GOOD!

HE'LL SMASH THIS CITY TO **RUBBLE** BEFORE HIS POWERS **FADE!**

*AS THE **CRISIS** MOUNTS, THE PRESS REVIEWS ALL **KNOWN** FACTS CONCERNING IT...*

**GOOD EVENING...** MY COLLEAGUES ARE TRUMAN SWARTZ AND MILLY McCOY. I AM HARRY KRUNKEIT... AND THIS IS THE **NEWS!**

**THE DANGER IS GROWING!** OUR CITY IS AT THE MERCY OF A ROGUE FORCE OF **UNPRECEDENTED** NATURE! ALL EFFORTS TO CONTAIN IT HAVE **FAILED!!**

OUR POLICE ARE **REGROUPING** TO ATTACK! THE NATIONAL GUARD IS MOMENTARILY EXPECTED -- AND THIS CITY IS NOW **OFFICIALLY A DISASTER AREA!**

BY **REMOTE,** WE HAVE WITH US, TONIGHT, THE PEOPLE WHO CLAIM **INITIAL** RESPONSIBILITY FOR OUR PRESENT **GRAVE** CONDITION!

WE HAD **NO** INKLING THAT THIS KIND OF DEVELOPMENT WOULD TAKE PLACE, SIR!

WHAT BEGAN AS A **SCHOOL PROJECT** HAS BECOME A **NIGHTMARE!!**

OUR GUEST IS DOCTOR *TIMOTHY RYAN* OF THE *MARYLAND INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY.*

A COMPUTERIZED *REPLICA* OF A POPULAR *MARVEL* CHARACTER WAS *BUILT* HERE BY THESE TWO YOUNG MEN --

T-THAT'S *TRUE!*

WE DID A *GREAT* JOB! IT MOVED AND BEHAVED JUST LIKE THE REAL *HULK* *COMPLETELY* UNDER *OUR* CONTROL!

THEN... SOMETHING HAPPENED... WHICH WE *STILL* CAN'T UNDERSTAND!

I-ITS CIRCUITRY *CHANGED* SOMEHOW! THE THING JUST RAN *WILD!!*

FROM DRAFTING BOARD TO *DEVILTRY!* STUDENT GADGETRY IN *REVOLT* AGAINST HUMANS EVERYWHERE!

NOW, TO MILLY McCOY AND *ANOTHER* FASCINATING LOOK AT THIS STORY!

THANK YOU, HARRY!

AMONG THOSE IN *CLOSE* CONTACT WITH TONIGHT'S VIOLENCE ARE A GROUP OF *ETERNALS...* AND TWO *HUMAN* COMPANIONS!

AT THIS MOMENT, THEIR *BATTERED* CRAFT RESTS *MOTIONLESS* ON A MID-TOWN STREET.

ITS CREW IS STILL *INSIDE!*

AS YOU CAN SEE, A DETAIL OF POLICE HAS ARRIVED TO FORCE AN ENTRANCE INTO THE WRECKED VEHICLE!

WE SHALL KNOW VERY *SOON* IF THE OCCUPANTS HAVE SUFFERED ANY INJURY... OR *FATALITY!*

*SUDDENLY, AT THE SCENE--!*

MAKE WAY FOR *LEVITATORS,* GOOD GUARDIANS! WE'VE *SURVIVED* A TRYING ORDEAL!

UGH!

L-LOOK AT *THAT,* WILL'YA NOW!!

HOW IN BLAZES DO YOU *DO* IT, MAN!?

THE *ETERNAL* DOES IT! I-I'M JUST *PULLED* ALONG FOR THE RIDE!

*MAKARRI!* WHERE ARE YOU GOING!? *D-DON'T* LEAVE US BEHIND!

EASY, MISS!

FAREWELL, YOU TWO!

I CAN NO LONGER EXPOSE YOU TO DANGERS THAT YOU *CAN'T* COPE WITH!!

GOOD LUCK AND GOOD *HUNTING*, MAKARRI!

LORD KNOWS HOW THIS WILL *END!*

THESE ETERNALS CAN SURE TAKE PUNISHMENT! I SURE HOPE HE *BEATS* THE ODDS!

I-I FEEL SO HELPLESS -- BEING LEFT HERE -- TO *WAIT*--!

*AT THAT MOMENT...*

WOOMM!!

THAT SHOCK MUST HAVE *SHATTERED* THE *RICHTER SCALE!*

A-ARE YOU *HURT*, MARGO?

I'LL LIVE... BUT I DON'T KNOW FOR HOW LONG -- IF *THIS* KEEPS UP!

*UP THERE! IT'S THE HULK!*

*CLEAR THIS AREA OF CIVILIANS!!*

HE'S GROWN *STRONGER* -- MORE *SAVAGE!!*

HE'S RAINING *TONS* OF DEBRIS UPON THE STREETS!

THERE IS A MASS **RUSH** FOR COVER AS THE CITY TREMBLES IN THE **STORM** OF FALLING MASONRY!

RUN! RUN!

CRASH!!

ON THE ROOF TOPS ABOVE, THE **RAMPAGING** CREATURE ROARS IN **AWE-SOME,** UNABATED FURY!

THEN, FROM THE DARK SKIES ABOVE...

POW POW POW POW POW

HELICOPTER GUNSHIPS CONVERGE ON THEIR TARGET!

LOOK OUT!! HE'S—!

BAM!!

GOOD GRIEF! HE'S SMASHED OUR **LEAD** CHOPPER!

POUR IT INTO HIM!!

WE *CAN'T* REACH HIM!! THOSE FLAMES ARE EVERYWHERE!

THE *GROUND* FORCES WILL HAVE TO TAKE IT FROM HERE!

*PREPARE TO OPEN FIRE!*

NATIONAL GUARD ARTILLERY

*SUDDENLY, THE COSMIC BEHEMOTH LEAPS OUTWARD!*

WE *CAN'T* ZERO IN ON HIM! *HE'S JUMPING OUT OF RANGE!*

*LOOK OUT! HE'S UP TO SOMETHING!*

*KABLAM!*

GOOD GOD! THE GREEN DEVIL'S HIT THAT BUILDING LIKE A--A *SUPER-BOMB!*

*RUN!--OR YOU'LL BE CRUSHED!*

*WOOM!!*

THEN THE **TERRIBLE** ECHOES GIVE WAY TO THE CRACKLE OF FLAME, AND NOW, **DISTANT** SHOUTS OF DISMAY, A MASSIVE SUB-HUMAN FIGURE MOVES **MENACINGLY** ACROSS THE TONS OF HEAPED DEBRIS...

BEFORE HIM STAND THE **LAST DITCH** DEFENDERS OF THE CITY...

**STAND FAST!** DON'T GIVE WAY!

H-HE'S REACHED THE **PEAK** OF HIS POWER, IKARIS! WHAT ARE OUR **CHANCES** OF STOPPING HIM!?

VERY **FEW!**

**LEAVE,** SERSI! THIS **WON'T** BE **NICE!**

**OBEY,** SERSI--! ETERNALS **CAN'T** DIE ... BUT THEY CAN BE **TWISTED** OUT OF SHAPE FOR **ALL TIME!**

NEVERTHELESS... WE'VE GOT TO MARSHALL OUR **OWN** POWERS AND USE THEM WITH A WILL **EQUAL** TO HIS!

**W-WAIT! BEHOLD!!**

**LET MY HAND DECIDE THIS FIGHT!!**

**GREAT ZURAS!!**
IT'S
# GREAT ZURAS
AND THE
# BIG CITY CRYPT
IN THE NEXT EXCITING ISSUE!
**GET IT!!**

THE ETERNALS™

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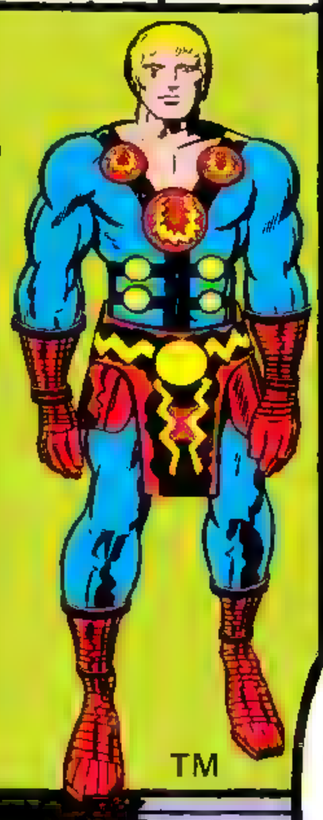

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# WHEN GODS WALK THE EARTH!

# THE ETERNALS™

THENA! MAKARRI! STAY BACK!! THERE'S NO WAY TO SAVE ME NOW!

IKARUS TRAPPED BY

## THE THING IN THE BIG CITY CRYPT!

Strange events have exposed a startling fact, kept alive through the centuries only by myth and superstition—man is not alone on the evolutionary chain!! He has shared the planet with two species unknown to him! Now, in a sudden burst of violence, the Deviants have risen from their domain beneath the sea to challenge all humanity!! But mankind has unexpected allies—

# Stan Lee PRESENTS: THE ETERNALS!™

EDITED, WRITTEN AND DRAWN BY **JACK KIRBY** • INKS 'N' LETTERS: **MIKE ROYER** • COLORING: **G. WEIN** • EVERYTHING ELSE: **ARCHIE GOODWIN**

*WITH A METROPOLIS AT HIS MERCY, A REPLICA OF ONE OF MARVEL'S **MIGHTIEST** MARAUDERS, POWERED BY **COSMIC** ENERGY, **DEFIES** ALL OPPOSITION TO STOP HIM! BUT, THIS IS NOT A GAME OF "WIN OR LOSE"... BUT WHAT YOU **FIND** WHEN THE DAMAGE IS DONE!*

## BIG CITY RRRR!!

## CRASH!

TAKE CAUTION, GREAT **ZURAS**--! THIS IS A CREATURE WITH ***NIGHTMARISH*** POWERS!

THEN, WHO BUT THE ***ELDEST*** OF ALL ETERNALS CAN ***COPE*** WITH HIM?

***STAND ASIDE, IKARIS!***

ALTHOUGH THE ELEMENTS FROM THE STARS HAVE INFILTRATED THIS PONDEROUS HULK, I SHALL *QUICKLY* FIND AN EXIT FOR THEM!

HE *WON'T* MAKE THAT EASY, SIRE! WITNESS THE *FURY* BEHIND THOSE EYES!

THE COSMIC *BUILD-UP* IS AT ITS PEAK! IT FIRES THAT FURY WITH A STRENGTH *BEYOND* BELIEF!

LET *ME* FACE HIM, SIRE!

*NO!* THIS CREATURE SHALL LEARN *FEAR* FROM ME! IT SHALL DEAL WITH ZURAS *HIMSELF!*

AARRRR!

STAY WHERE YOU ARE!

I *CAN'T* ALLOW THIS ENCOUNTER! *I'VE GOT TO STOP HIM!*

SMASH!

THE FOE IS *PUZZLED!* THOUGH HE REEKS OF THE STUFF OF STARS, HE *CANNOT* CONCEIVE OF A MIND WHICH CAN PRODUCE A PROTECTIVE *FORCE SHIELD!*

HE SHALL *STILL* ATTACK! SOMEHOW, HE *PREVAILS!*

SUDDENLY, THE ARMS OF GREAT ZURAS LASH OUT AND **GRIP** THE SHOULDER BLADES OF THE GREEN MENACE...

TO PREVAIL AGAINST ZURAS IS A **VAIN** EFFORT FOR THIS CREATURE!

I SHALL NOW **RELIEVE** HIM OF THE MYSTERY HE WAS **NOT** MEANT TO BEAR!

SSSSS!

BEHOLD THE **FLIGHT** OF COSMIC MATTER FROM THE **VESSEL** IN WHICH IT WAS TRAPPED BY A WHIM OF FATE!

THE PSEUDO-HULK FLAILS AT THE BRIGHT CLOUD OF **ESCAPING** ENERGY AS IF HE WERE BESET BY DEVILS...

SSSSSS

THUS IT **BEGINS**. THE POWER THAT SHATTERED A CITY WILL SOON BE **GONE!**

MAY THE **WISDOM** AND POWER OF ZURAS REMAIN FOR ALL TIME!

TORN BY FRIGHT, THE HULK LEAPS ACROSS THE CITY LIKE A **FLAMING** COMET...

YIELD **NOT** TO THE CALM OF **FALSE** SECURITY, IKARIS! THE DANGER IS **FAR** FROM OVER!

I UNDERSTAND, SIRE. STILL... THE CREATURE **DRAINED** OF ITS COSMIC ENERGY WILL BE **LESS** FORMIDABLE!

I'M *CERTAIN* THAT HE CAN THUS BE SUBJECTED TO A POINT OF *SUFFICIENT* RESTRAINT!

I CHARGE YOU TO SEE THAT IT IS *DONE!* FIND MAKARRI AND TAKE TO THE TASK AT *ONCE!*

IF GREAT ZURAS COMMANDS, THEN WHO BUT *MAKARRI* IS EVER FIRST TO RESPOND?

--AND WHO BUT FAITHFUL *SERSI* IS EVER GRATEFUL FOR THE RETURN OF MORE OPTIMISTIC TIMES?

PARTIES ARE FOREVER ON HER MIND!

I DON'T KNOW WHAT OLD *BEARD-FACE* DID, CHARLIE, BUT IT LOOKS LIKE THIS FRACAS MAY BE *OVER!*

I HOPE YOU'RE *RIGHT!* I'M STILL PARTIAL TO THE RUN-OF-THE-MILL *SHOOT-OUT!*

ER--DO MARGO AND *I* BOW TOO, SERSI?

IT'S *OPTIONAL* FOR HUMANS, SAMUEL...

TELL US, ZURAS... HOW SHALL WE *SERVE* YOU?

THE TASK IS FOR IKARIS AND YOU *ALONE!*

IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT THE *FINAL* SUBJECTION OF THE HULK MUST BE SEEN TO AT ONCE!

OVERTAKE HIM AND MAKE *CERTAIN* THAT THIS ENDS WITHOUT *FURTHER* INCIDENT!

*MEANWHILE...*

THERE'S THE *HULK,* ARTHUR! HE'S LEAPING FROM BUILDING TO BUILDING!

HE'S SHOOTING OFF *FIREWORKS!!*

THE COSMIC FIREWORKS DRAIN RELENTLESSLY FROM THE FLEEING HULK! HIS EVERY MANEUVER IS UNABLE TO HALT THE FLOW!..

LOOK! UP THERE--!

SPLIT--! OR HE'LL LAND ON TOP OF US!

HE'S RUNNING WILD -- LIKE A BLAZING TRUCK WITHOUT A DRIVER!

TZAM!

MAN! WHAT A SIGHT!

ARRAA!

RUN! RUN!

HE'S RAVING MAD!

IN TRUTH, THE TORMENTED CREATURE SEEMS DRIVEN BY DEMONS. HE TEARS OUT GREAT CHUNKS OF THE CONCRETE STREET...

THE DIGGING IS CONTINUOUS AND FRANTIC. IN A MATTER OF MINUTES, THE HULK VANISHES INTO THE JAGGED SHAFT MADE BY HIS OWN POWERFUL HANDS...

HE SOON BREAKS THROUGH TO THE **UNDERGROUND** POWER SYSTEM WHICH SERVICES THE CITY WITH **ELECTRICITY** AND **GAS**...

BUT THE FIERY PLAGUE **NEVER** LEAVES HIM... ALTHOUGH HE GROWS WEAKER AND CRAWLS TO ESCAPE, HIS ATTEMPT IS **FRUITLESS**...

**MEANWHILE, ABOVE...**

WE'VE **FOUND** HIM MEN! HE'S DOWN THERE-- **LIT** UP LIKE THE FOURTH OF JULY!

HE COULD **IGNITE** THE GAS LINES! **CLEAR THE STREET!**

THIS DISTRICT IS GONNA **BLOW SKY HIGH!**

LET'S GET OUT OF HERE!

**SPREAD THE WARNING! QUICK!**

THERE'S **NEVER** A TAXI IN SIGHT WHEN YA **NEED** ONE!

**GO HOME! GO HOME! THIS AREA IS IN DANGER!**

**AT THAT MOMENT, BEYOND THE MENACED DISTRICT...**

YOU ADDRESS GREAT ZURAS, HUMANS! HE IS THE **PRIME** ETERNAL!

I AM CONSIDERED AS SUCH!

THIS IS A **RARE** PRIVILEGE SIR! WE ASK ONLY A **FEW** COMMENTS ABOUT TONIGHT'S INCIDENT!

WYZ

LET 'EM ALL SPEAK!

WHO'S THE FROSTY GUY WITH THE GLASSES?

-ER--MY NAME IS SAMUEL HOLDEN. I-I'M--

HE'S NOT AN ETERNAL. BUT, I FIND HIM A MOST INTRIGUING HUMAN!

THERE ARE HUMANS IN OUR GROUP--AND THEY HAVE SEEN THE WONDERS OF OUR CITY OF OLYMPIA.

HUMANS AND ETERNALS MUST HEREIN BE AS ONE!

MARGO DAMIAN, AS A MEMBER OF THEIR PARTY, CAN YOU TELL US WHY THE ETERNALS STRESS THIS ISSUE?

WYZB

AND IN EVERY HOME...

WE INTEND TO EXCHANGE KNOWLEDGE IMPORTANT TO OUR MUTUAL WELFARE!

AS YOU MUST REALIZE, THE ETERNALS KNOW SECRETS WHICH THE AGES HAVE DENIED YOU!

WHATEVER IS HE LEADING UP TO, FRED?

LET'S HEAR HIM OUT!

WILL THIS BE OVER SOON, MOMMY?

I HOPE SO... THE DREADFUL HAPPENINGS IN THESE PAST FEW HOURS HAVE KEPT US CHAINED TO THIS APARTMENT!

THINGS WILL WORK OUT, DARLING... LISTEN!

--UNTIL THESE SECRETS CAN BE SAFELY REVEALED, WE ASK YOUR TRUST AND YOUR PATIENCE!

SUDDENLY, A TITANIC EXPLOSION ROCKS THE CENTER OF THE CITY...

WOOOOM!

IN FATAL PROXIMITY WITH THE GAS LINES, THE PSEUDO-HULK HAS FOUND OBLIVION AND LEFT AN INFERNO IN HIS PASSING...

SOON...

HIT THE PANIC BUTTON! THIS IS THE BIGGEST BLAZE YET!

WHAT A NIGHT! NON-STOP FIRES! NON-STOP EVERYTHING!

IKARIS AND MAKARRI, MEANWHILE, HAVE LEVITATED TO THE SCENE...

GREAT ZURAS WAS RIGHT! WE'VE YET TO SEE THE END OF THE HULK'S WORK!

THERE'S NO SIGN OF HIM IN THIS CHAOS!

PERHAPS HE PERISHED IN THE EXPLOSION! IT'S NOT A DISPLEASING THOUGHT!

WE MUST MAKE CERTAIN OF THAT! REMEMBER OUR TASK...

SEE THERE, MAKARRI--! THE GROUND MOVES AND BREAKS BEFORE US!

IT'S AS IF SOME GREAT BURROWING ANIMAL IS ACTIVE BELOW THE SURFACE!

I FEAR THAT WE'VE NOT SEEN THE LAST OF THE HULK!

K-K-KRAK!

WILL NOTHING STOP THAT CURSED THING?!

WHAT'S WRONG, IKARIS?! HAVE YOU LOST YOUR FOOTING?

QUICKLY, MAKARRI! MY LEG'S BEEN-- SEIZED!

BEFORE MAKARRI CAN REACH HIM, HIS COMPANION IS YANKED FROM SIGHT...

IKARIS!!

IKARIS!

BY THE GODS!!!

I'LL SOON GET TO THE SOURCE OF THIS FOUL PLAY! IN THIS TASK, THE TRIALS OF IKARIS ARE ALSO MINE!!

MAKARRI SOON BREAKS THROUGH THE BROKEN CONCRETE AND...

GREAT ZURAS! THAT EXPLOSION HAS UNCOVERED A VERITABLE ABYSS BELOW THE CITY STREETS!

DESCENDING SWIFTLY INTO THE DEPTHS, MAKARRI MAKES AN EVEN MORE ASTONISHING DISCOVERY...

THIS SHAFT WAS NOT CARVED BY NATURE! SOMEWHERE IN THE ANCIENT PAST, MANY HANDS NOW STILLED BY TIME WERE PUT TO WORK TO SHAPE THIS ENIGMA!

I RECALL A LEGEND THAT EXISTS IN THE DARK RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE ETERNALS AND DEVIANTS! IT HAS SOMETHING TO DO WITH SOME SORT OF TOMB!

--AND THIS GARGANTUAN METAL DOOR! IT TOO IS OF A LEGENDARY ORIGIN! IT WAS FORBIDDEN TO BE OPENED!

YET, I FIND IT--AJAR! WHO COULD HAVE--?!

I COULD HAVE OPENED IT! AND I DID!!

MEANTIME...

KEEP POURING IT ON, BOYS! WE'LL PUT OUT THIS FLAMER IF WE HAVE TO EMPTY THE RIVER TO DO IT!

IT'S A BAD ONE, CHIEF! BUT IT COULD'VE BEEN WORSE IF THEY HADN'T SHUT OFF ALL GAS TO THE CITY.!

HEY! STOP THAT OLD BUZZARD! HE'S NOT PERMITTED ON THIS LINE!

THAT'S THE RULE, POPS! YOU'RE OFF LIMITS!

YOU WILL LEARN TO RESPECT THE POWER OF ZURAS! BEHOLD, HUMANS!

THEN...

STAND BACK—! HE'S THROWING LIGHTNING BOLTS!

CRASH!

HOLY COW!

WHAT WAS THAT?!

THE COUNTER-BLOW LASTS ONLY SECONDS. IT SNUFFS OUT THE FIERY HOLOCAUST AND IS GONE. A MOTIONLESS CROWD STANDS IN STUNNED SILENCE AT THE EDGE OF ALL THAT IS LEFT: A HUGE, DARK, GAPING PIT...

I-IT'S UNBELIEVABLE, GRANDPA! ***H-HOW*** DID YOU DO IT?!

HE'S AN ETERNAL! THEY CAN DO ***ANYTHING!***

THAT TRICK TOOK A ***THOUSAND*** YEARS OF PRACTICE!

GREAT ZURAS! IF THE PROBLEM HAS BEEN ***DEALT*** WITH, PERHAPS WE CAN ***LEAVE*** THIS CITY...

IKARIS AND MAKARRI HAVE YET TO BE ***HEARD*** FROM. IT WOULD BE BEST TO ***WAIT*** FOR THEIR REPORT!

IN ALL FRANKNESS, SERSI, THE ANCIENT FEARS THAT LIE ***BURIED*** IN THIS OLD HEART HAVE BEEN MIGHTILY ***STIRRED*** HERE!

CAN THE ***PIT*** BE THE SOURCE OF YOUR FEARS? IT IS OF ***AWESOME*** SIZE AND DEPTH!

HEED ME, CHILD--THOUGH YOU'VE SEEN ***AGES*** PASS, YOU ARE VERY ***YOUNG*** WITHIN THE ***ETERNAL*** CONTEXT!

THE SHAFT BELOW WAS FORMED ***LONG*** BEFORE YOU CAME INTO BEING!

***PLEASE,*** SIRE... IF THERE IS SOMETHING I SHOULD KNOW ABOUT THIS PLACE, I ASK BUT TO ***SHARE*** THE KNOWLEDGE!

***LATER,*** SERSI. THIS DEMANDS MY PERSONAL ATTENTION. I MUST ***DESCEND*** INTO THE PIT!

LET ME GO WITH YOU! I WOULD ALSO SHARE THE ***MYSTERY*** IN ITS DEPTHS!

I ORDER YOU TO ***JOIN*** YOUR FRIENDS AND ***WAIT*** FOR MY RETURN! DO AS I COMMAND!

ZURAS DRIFTS STEADILY DOWNWARD FOR HUNDREDS OF FEET... UNTIL...

MY WORST FEARS HAVE BEEN REALIZED! THE CRYPT IS HERE, AS I EXPECTED--AND TORN OPEN BY THE EXPLOSION!

SPURRED BY RISING PANIC, ZURAS HURRIES ON, AS HE LEVITATES HUGE BOULDERS FROM HIS PATH...

WOE SHALL BE THE LOT OF ALL IF THE TOMB HAS NOT WITHSTOOD THE FORCE EXERTED HERE!

IT'S IN THIS CHAMBER--! I SEE IT!

BY EVERY CURSED DEMON!! THE TOMB IS EMPTY! ITS OCCUPANT IS GONE!!

DROMEDAN, THE BRAIN-SNATCHER, IS FREE TO PLAGUE THIS CENTURY!

BUT... HE MADE A MOVE WHICH MAY YET UNDO HIM!

HE'S ***REMOVED*** THE HELMET WHICH IMPRISONED THE ***ENORMOUS*** ASSAULT POWER OF HIS MIND!

IN ***MY*** HANDS, THIS CAN STILL BE THE WEAPON TO ***CONTAIN*** HIM!

WHEN THE ***DEVIANT*** EMPIRE WAS AT ITS ***HEIGHT,*** THEY BRED DROMEDAN TO ***DESTROY*** THE ETERNALS!

INSTEAD, THEY HAD TO ***ENTOMB*** HIM... FOR FEAR OF THEIR ***OWN*** SAFETY!

*ZURAS SUDDENLY BURSTS IN UPON AN APPALLING SIGHT...*

IKARIS AND MAKARRI--! ATTACKING EACH OTHER!

THERE'S ONLY ***ONE*** ANSWER!

I-I ***CAN'T*** HELP MYSELF, MAKARRI! I ***MUST*** SHATTER YOU FOR ALL TIME!

DROMEDAN HAS ***SEIZED*** THEIR MINDS! THEY ARE UNDER ***HIS*** CONTROL!

*FORGIVE ME, MAKARRI!* ***FORGIVE ME!!***

KRAK!

IT IS HORROR ***TOO*** GREAT TO BEAR! IF DROMEDAN GAINS HIS FREEDOM, THIS WILL BE ***REPEATED*** ON A WORLD-WIDE SCALE!

MEANWHILE, IKARIS MAKES A GARGANTUAN EFFORT TO SHAKE OFF THE UNSEEN MIND-CONTROLLER...

I WON'T LET THIS HAPPEN! I WON'T!!

YOU TRY IN VAIN, IKARIS! THE COMPULSION IS TOO STRONG!

IF I GAIN THE UPPER HAND, I SHALL ONLY BE FORCED TO POUND YOU INTO SUBMISSION!

CURSE THIS MADNESS! DELIVER US FROM IT!

I'M TRYING, MIGHTILY, MAKARRI! THOUGH MY BRAIN BURSTS, I SHALL NOT DISABLE A FELLOW ETERNAL!

IKARIS IS SUDDENLY STAGGERED BY KNIFE-LIKE PAINS...

DON'T BE A FOOL, IKARIS! DON'T SUFFER!

MY BRAIN -- IT'S AFIRE!

THIS IS THE ONLY RELEASE!

WHAM

MAKARRI! DON'T FIGHT ME--! FIGHT THE HIDDEN MASTER!

ALTHOUGH *EVERY* CELL IN MY BODY CRIES OUT AGAINST IT-- *I MUST STRIKE!*

*NO, MAKARRI!* IF WE CAN *DEFY* THE PAIN--THEN THESE FOUL COMMANDS CAN BE *FOUGHT* AS WELL!

THE PAIN IS *TERRIBLE--!* *TERRIBLE!*

*DESPITE HIS DESPERATE INNER STRUGGLE, MAKARRI RAISES HIS KNOTTED FIST...*

WE'RE *PUPPETS,* IKARIS! DOOMED PUPPETS AT THE MERCY OF A *MONSTROUS* WILL!

*HOLD!*

*THIS MONSTER SHALL NOT HAVE YOU!!*

NOT WITH *ZURAS* AT HAND!

*MY BRAIN IS FREE--!* THE DOMINANT WILL HAS *SUDDENLY* WITHDRAWN!

MY SURPRISE APPEARANCE HAS NO DOUBT STARTLED PROMEDAN!

YOU TWO MUST *FLEE* WHILE YOU *CAN!*

NEVER, ZURAS! WE SHALL FIGHT BY YOUR *SIDE!*

AT THAT MOMENT, A VIOLENT GUST OF WIND STRIKES ZURAS...

STAND BACK! I MUST FACE DROMEDAN-- ALONE!

HE REMEMBERS ME, NOW! HE REMEMBERS TORMENTING ME WITH WIND AND FLAME!

--AND TURNING ME TO STONE WAS ANOTHER MOVE THAT FAILED! MY LONE RESISTANCE TAUGHT HIM FEAR!

COME OUT, DROMEDAN! YOUR NEMESIS AWAITS YOU ONCE MORE!!

I'LL DO WITH THE WORLD AS I PLEASE! YOUR DAY IS OVER!

KNEEL, ZURAS!!

THIS TIME, YOU SHALL WEAR THE NEUTRALIZER HELMET FOR ETERNITY-- AND PLAGUE THE WORLD NO MORE!

IN A BATTLE BETWEEN MALES, THE DECIDING FACTOR IS ALWAYS AN ANGRY WOMAN... NEXT--

SERSI THE TERRIBLE

THE ETERNALS™

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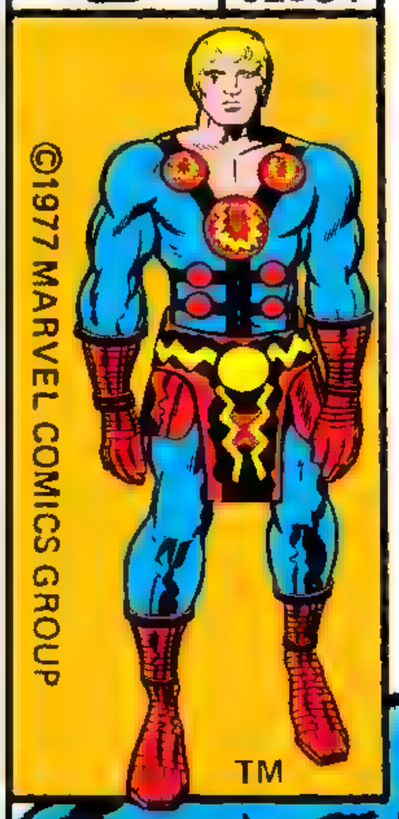

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## THE DIABOLICAL DROMEDAN BATTLES THE ETERNALS™

HE HAS THE POWER TO MOLD THE WORLD TO HIS WILL! THE DEADLIEST CHALLENGE YET FOR IKARUS AND THE MYSTIC MIGHT OF: SERSI THE TERRIBLE!

Strange events have exposed a startling fact, kept alive through the centuries only by myth and superstition—man is not alone on the evolutionary chain!! He has shared the planet with two species unknown to him! Now, in a sudden burst of violence, the Deviants have risen from their domain beneath the sea to challenge all humanity!! But mankind has unexpected allies—

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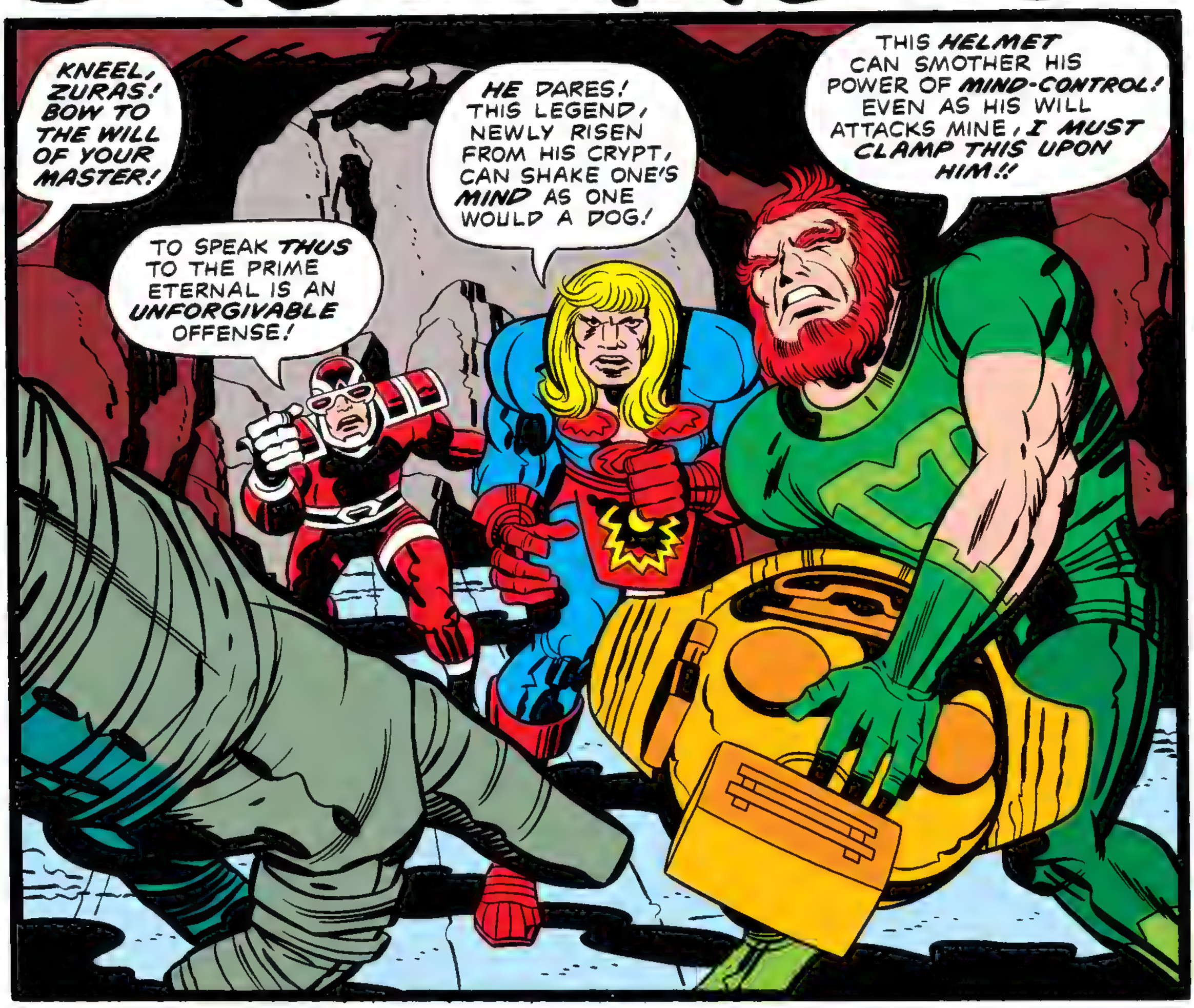
EDITED, WRITTEN AND DRAWN BY **JACK KIRBY** • LETTERED & INKED BY MICHAEL ROYER • COLORED BY GLYNIS WEIN • UMPIRED BY ARCHIE GOODWIN

IN AN ANCIENT CRYPT UNEARTHED BY EXPLODING GAS LINES BENEATH A MODERN CITY'S STREETS, THE MIGHTY POWERS OF THE **FOREMOST** ETERNALS ARE UNDER HAMMERING ATTACK! THEIR OPPONENT ONCE MADE THE WORLD TREMBLE! **IF HE WINS, HE MAY DO IT AGAIN** --UNLESS THE WRATH OF A **FEMALE** CAN STOP HIM! READ...

# SERSI the TERRIBLE



MY WILL IS FREE! I CAN BREAK THIS MIND ATTACK ON GREAT ZURAS!

STRIKE HARD, MAKARRI!

LEAVE THIS TO US, SIRE!

I NEED BUT A MOMENT TO RECOVER, IKARIS! RESISTING THAT MONSTER IS A MIGHTY TASK!

HEED YOUR LEADER'S WORDS, FOOLISH ONE! TO ATTACK ME IS FUTILE!

YOU'LL BE MERE PULP BEFORE YOU CAN SEIZE MY MIND!

THE WILL OF DROMEDAN IS SWIFT AS IT IS POWERFUL! MY MENTAL COMMAND IS ALREADY IN YOUR BRAIN--! SQUEEZING IT--UNTIL IT CONTAINS ONLY ONE THOUGHT --MINE--!!!

I-I CAN'T MOVE--! I WANT TO ATTACK-- BUT, I-- CAN'T!

YOU CAN'T BECAUSE-- I FORBID IT!

MAKARRI WEAKENS AND SINKS TO THE GROUND...

I'LL RESIST, DROMEDAN! I'LL FIGHT YOUR CONTROL TO THE LAST!

YOU'RE NOTHING MORE THAN A PUPPET NOW, YOU FOOL!

LONG AGO, I WAS **BRED** BY THE DEVIANTS TO USE THIS POWER IN **THEIR** SERVICE! I SOON TAUGHT THEM AND ALL OTHERS THAT IT BELONGS TO **DROMEDAN,** ALONE!

YOU TEACH... BUT YOU **NEVER** LEARN!

**STAND ASIDE,** IKARIS! I'LL-- **I'LL...**

LISTEN TO ME, DROMEDAN! YOUR POWER FAILED YOU IN THE PAST AND IT WILL FAIL YOU **NOW!** YOU'RE COLD AND **CRUEL** AND INCAPABLE OF USING IT WISELY!

SOMEHOW, A METHOD WAS FOUND TO **STOP** YOU!

**NO POWER IS ABSOLUTE IN THE HANDS OF A MADMAN! YOU'RE NOT CLEVER ENOUGH TO AVOID MISTAKES!**

**ARROGANT** ETERNAL! **YOU'RE NOT CLEVER ENOUGH TO BE ONE OF MY MISTAKES!**

**I DON'T FEAR TO TRY!** PERHAPS I MAY YET BE THE **BIGGEST** MISTAKE YOU'VE MADE!

COME THEN, IKARIS-- **AND BE MY SLAVE!**

A POWERFUL MENTAL COMMAND GRASPS THE WILL OF IKARIS. HE FALLS HEAVILY AMONG THE ROCKS...

USE THE HAND THAT WOULD STRIKE ME AND POUND IT ON THE STONES!

ALTHOUGH IKARIS ATTEMPTS TO RESIST THE ORDER, HIS MIND IS ALMOST SHATTERED BY THE STRENGTH OF IT...

DO IT! DO AS I SAY!

KRAK!

BLAST YOU, DROMEDAN! I CURSE YOUR NAME FOR ALL TIME!

THE PAIN WILL MAKE YOU KINDER, IKARIS!

KEEP POUNDING!!

BAM

THE BRAVEST OF THE BRAVE HAVE LEARNED TO CRAWL TO ME FOR MERCY! I'VE MADE THEM WEEP LIKE CHILDREN BEFORE I GAVE THEM RELEASE!

SUDDENLY...

CRASH!!

ONLY THE BOLTS OF GREAT ZURAS COULD TURN THIS HARD GROUND INTO A MOLTEN LAKE!

I'M STILL IN THIS FIGHT, DROMEDAN! I HAVEN'T YIELDED!

DO YOU THINK TO IMPRISON ME WHEN THIS HARDENS? YOU SHOULD HAVE TRIED TO DESTROY ME INSTEAD!

I AM NOT A DESTROYER, DROMEDAN! I MUST MAKE YOU WEAR THIS HELMET!

LONG AGO YOU FORCED IT UPON ME BY TRICKERY! BUT IT SHALL NEVER HAPPEN AGAIN!

THE GROUND HAS HARDENED! IT HOLDS YOU FAST! YIELD TO WHAT MUST BE DONE!

THIS WILL BRING YOU PEACE -- AND GIVE FINAL SECURITY TO ALL THAT YOU THREATEN!

FOOLISH ZURAS MUST BE SHOWN THAT HIS HEART BETRAYS HIS HEAD! BEHOLD THE NEW POWER OF MY MIND ATTACK!

I CAN FORCE YOU TO CREATE YOUR VERY OWN PUNISHMENT! I'VE WILLED YOU TO GROW THE SPINES THAT TORMENT YOUR BODY--! EVEN AS I CAN WILL YOU TO FREE ME!

NEVER! NEVER!

THEN SHROUD YOURSELF IN DARK VAPORS AND BREATHE DEEPLY, ZURAS!

THOUGH YOU *CANNOT* DIE, YOU CAN *SUFFER* MIGHTILY!

MAKARRI'S POWERS WILL *SERVE* AS WELL FOR THE TASK!

*FIGHT HIS WILL*, MAKARRI! =COUGH! COUGH!= HE *MUSTN'T* BE FREED!

I'LL TRY, GREAT ZURAS! I-I'LL *TRY*...

HE *WEAKENS* US WITH EACH ATTACK! YET, YOU MUST MAKE A *SUPREME* EFFORT!

MY WILL IS *STILL* NOT STRONG ENOUGH TO DO THE WORK OF AN *ETERNAL*!

I-I *CAN'T*, IKARIS! HIS WILL IS *STRONGER* THAN EVER! HE HOLDS MY MIND IN A *STEEL* GRIP!

BUT, IT *CAN* CONTROL YOU! IT CAN *FORCE* YOU TO A TASK SO *EASILY* ACCOMPLISHED BY YOUR KIND!

NO, MAKARRI! *NO!*

*CONCENTRATE!* DISRUPT THE ATOMS OF THIS GROUND! REND IT ASUNDER, SO THAT IT BECOMES LIKE *SOFT* EARTH, NEWLY PLOWED!

MAKARRI DOES AS HE IS ORDERED... THEN...

WELL DONE, ETERNAL! YOUR MIND IS A USEFUL TOOL, INDEED!

KRAKRAK!!!

BUT, YOU CAN NO LONGER EMPLOY IT FOR YOUR OWN PURPOSES! I CLAIM IT AS THE PERSONAL PROPERTY OF DROMEDAN!

I'VE TOYED WITH EACH OF YOU AND WEAKENED YOUR WILLS TO THE EDGE OF COMPLETE ENSLAVEMENT! YOU'VE NOW PASSED THAT POINT!

YOUR POWERS WHICH COULD HAVE HUMBLED ME ARE NOW MINE TO COMMAND!

STAND, SLAVES! YOU'VE LOST YOUR BATTLE TO STAY FREE!

THIS LITTLE GAME HAS ALLOWED ME TO BRING MY MENTAL POWERS TO THEIR FORMER STRENGTH! I CAN NOW DESTROY THOSE I ATTACK!

AT THAT MOMENT, GREAT **REPTILIAN** COILS **DROP** UPON DROMEDAN FROM ABOVE...

BY EVERY CRAWLING **DEMON!**

SSSS!

YOU'VE GOT **ANOTHER** GUEST, BRAGGART! UNWRAPPING MY GIFT SHOULD KEEP YOU QUITE **BUSY!**

I'LL MAKE **SHORT** WORK OF IT! **NEVER** FEAR!

IF MY PRESENT **DISPLEASES** YOU, IT CAN BE QUICKLY **CHANGED** TO A MORE INTERESTING FORM!

RRRRR!!

THE ARRIVAL OF SERSI AT **ANY** SCENE IS FOREVER ACCOMPANIED BY **SURPRISES...**

WHAT'S **HAPPENED** HERE, IKARIS!? WHO IS THIS CREATURE OF BLUSTER AND **THREATS!?**

**LEAVE,** SERSI--! LEAVE **QUICKLY!**

DO AS IKARIS COMMANDS! WE FACE A MAD THING FROM THE DIM PAST --A THING OF INVINCIBLE POWER!

I DON'T BELIEVE IT! THERE IS NO EQUAL TO THE WISDOM AND STRENGTH OF ZURAS AND THE ETERNALS !!

YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE FOLLOWED US INTO THE CRYPT, SERSI! FLEE WHILE YOU CAN!

FOOLISH FEMALE! YOU TARRY TOO LONG!

WHAT MANNER OF POWER HAS PUT YOU IN THIS SORRY STATE, IKARIS?

MIND-CONTROL! A FORCE THAT CAN NOW DESTROY!

DROMEDAN'S MIND-WAVES HAVE REACHED KILLING STRENGTH --WHILE OUR POWERS HAVE BEEN SORELY DIMINISHED!

INCREDIBLE!

SUDDENLY...

SKAATCH!

MY GIFT LIES IN ASHES! YOU DIDN'T LIKE IT AFTER ALL!

'TWAS A POOR TEST FOR A MENTAL ASSAULT AT MAXIMUM POWER!

AT MAXIMUM POWER, I CAN NOT ONLY FASHION *MONSTROSITIES* FROM MOLECULES, BUT MAKE A BOAR FROM A *BOOR* SUCH AS YOU!

*YOU'VE* YET TO LEARN WHAT I TAUGHT TO YOUR *COMPANIONS!*

*FORGET YOUR BOAST!* YOU'RE *INCAPABLE* OF CARRYING IT OUT! I'VE ERASED IT FROM YOUR MIND! ANY FURTHER THREATS WILL BE DEALT WITH *HARSHLY!*

YOU--YOU *HORROR!*

THIS MENTAL *PROBE* MAY BE MORE CONVINCING!

*STOP IT! STOP IT!!*

COME BACK, SERS! *DON'T* DEFY HIM!

HE'LL *PAY* FOR THAT! HE'LL PAY *DEARLY!*

BE CALM... YOU'VE BOUGHT US *TIME!* WE'VE *RECOVERED* OUR POWERS--AND CAN *FIGHT* AGAIN!

THEN WE *MUST* DISPATCH HIM WITH *ONE* BOLD MOVE! LISTEN *CAREFULLY* TO MY PLAN!

SPEAK *SWIFTLY*, GIRL--!

*THEN...*

*DROMEDAN!* WE CANNOT ADMIT DEFEAT --SINCE YOU CANNOT *FULLY* CONTROL US!

*ARROGANT ETERNALS!* I'VE GIVEN YOU THE CHANCE TO SERVE ME. INSTEAD, YOU'VE THROWN IT AWAY IN *STUBBORN* DEFIANCE!

YOU CANNOT DIE PHYSICALLY, BUT I CAN TOTALLY DESTROY YOU ***MENTALLY!*** YOU'LL BE LIVING ***ZOMBIES*** FOR ALL TIME!

THEN ***CONCENTRATE,*** FOOL! WHICH ONE OF US WILL YOU CLAIM ***FIRST!?***

THERE ARE ***MORE*** OF US HERE THAN YOU IMAGINE! ORIGINALS AND REPLICAS! ***SEE THEM COME FORTH!***

***FLY, FRIENDS! TO THE ATTACK!***

*DROMEDAN STARES IN AMAZEMENT AS FIVE REPRESENTATIONS OF IKARIS HURL THEMSELVES AT HIM...*

A ***CLEVER*** TRICK, INDEED, ETERNALS! BUT ONE ***NOT*** LIKELY TO SUCCEED!

*THE FIRST ATTACKER IS MET BY A MIND-BLAST WHICH SHATTERS HIM IN FLIGHT...*

**POF!**

THE OTHERS CLASH WITH DROMEDAN IN A WILD MELEE OF STAGGERING FEROCITY! THE GREAT **MIND-MUTANT** IS FORCED TO GIVE GROUND BENEATH THE ASSAULT...

POW!

WHAM!

DIZZZZ

THIS WOLF-PACK IS NO MATCH FOR ME! MY POWER HAS REACHED ITS **PEAK!** I CAN DESTROY AN **ARMY!**

KABAAM

KRAK!!

FOUL DOG! YOUR FATE IS SEALED !!

TLUM!

THIS REMAINING ONE IS THE ***STRONGEST*** OF THE LOT! IT CAN ONLY BE THE ***ORIGINAL*** IKARIS, HIMSELF!

BUT NO MATTER! YOU WILL ***SHATTER*** LIKE THE ***OTHERS!***

THEN, IN GREAT ANGER, DROMEDAN ***SEIZES*** HIS FOE...

YOUR TIME HAS COME!

ETERNALS ***CAN'T*** DIE! BUT YOU SHALL LIVE AS ***FREE-FLOATING ATOMS!***

TZLPP!

IKARIS IS GONE! AND THE THREE OF YOU WILL FOLLOW HIM INTO THE *LIMBO* WHERE I'VE CAST HIM!

THAT *WON'T* SAVE YOU FROM EVENTUAL DESTRUCTION! WEAR THIS HELMET AND BE *SPARED*, DROMEDAN!

*HEED* THE WORDS OF ZURAS!

NOT EVEN THE EDGE OF *DOOM* CAN KEEP YOU ETERNALS FROM YOUR *LOVE* OF WISDOM!

*THEN TAKE IT WITH YOU*--INTO THE REALM OF *MICRO-PARTICLES*!!

*AT THAT MOMENT...*

*NOT BEFORE YOUR ARROGANCE FOLLOWS YOU INTO THE LAND OF DEATH!*

*IKARIS!* I'VE BEEN *TRICKED!*

*TWIN DISINTEGRATOR BEAMS LEAP FROM THE EYES OF IKARIS...*

*CLEAR THE WAY--!*

*RUN, SERSI!*

DROMEDAN IS STRUCK BEFORE HE CAN ACT!

TZAAM!

THE ERUPTION THAT SWALLOWS HIM IS A WHITE HOT INFERNO THAT ROCKS THE CAVERNS OF THE CRYPT...

WOOOM!

LEVITATE SWIFTLY -- OR THIS HOLOCAUST WILL CATCH US, TOO!

THAT MIND-MONSTER MUST BE MADE OF STUFF FROM THE PITS! HIS DEATH MAY BRING THESE CAVERNS DOWN UPON US!

CONTINUE ON! WE'LL SURVIVE!

SOON AFTER, THE EXPLOSIONS SUBSIDE, AND ONLY A GREAT BLAZE MARKS THE PASSING OF THIS STRANGEST OF CREATURES.

I'M GLAD TO SEE THIS PARTY END! DROMEDAN WAS NOT THE KIND OF ENTERTAINMENT I EXPECTED TO FIND HERE!

I CAN'T HELP WISHING THAT WE COULD HAVE DEALT WITH HIM ON MORE REASONABLE TERMS!

THIS WAS THE ONLY ANSWER! HE WAS TOO DANGEROUS TO LIVE!

IKARIS IS *RIGHT!* THAT MONSTER HAD TO BE STOPPED *HERE* -- IN THIS CRYPT!

THIS IS A *SORRY* DAY. DROMEDAN WAS *UNIQUE!* HAD HE WORN THE HELMET, IT WOULD HAVE ISOLATED HIS POWERS AND *KEPT* HIM FROM MADNESS!

GREAT ZURAS COULD HAVE *UNLEASHED* HIS MIGHTY BOLTS, BUT HIS COMPASSION WAS *GREATER* THAN HIS FEAR!

POLAR ETERNALS LACK THIS *ALL-CONSUMING* FAITH! WE KILL WHEN WE *MUST!*

I SAY THAT WITH DUE *RESPECT* FOR THE *WISDOM* OF GREAT ZURAS!

DON'T APOLOGIZE FOR YOUR *FROZEN-FACED* FAMILY OF TOUGHS! THEY DID SPAWN *YOU,* IKARIS!

BY THE GODS, YOU'RE THE *BEST* OF THAT SURLY CLAN! I'M *PROUD* TO CALL YOU *"FRIEND!"*

YOU DO ME *HONOR,* MAKARRI!

DESPITE THEIR *STRANGE* WAYS, THE POLAR ETERNALS HAVE ALWAYS SHOWN *GREAT* VALOR!

MY FATHER *VALKIN* WOULD HAVE NOTHING LESS OF US!

MIGHTY VALKIN AND HIS *SONS* ARE FOREVER WELCOME AT MY SIDE!

YOU FORGET *DRUIG,* SIRE! I WOULDN'T INVITE HIM TO ANYTHING BUT A *HANGING!*

*AT THAT MOMENT, IN THE POLAR MOUNTAINS OF THE FAR NORTH...*

*SPEAK, SIGMAR!* OR SHALL I TEAR THE SECRET FROM YOU BY *CRUDER* METHODS?

THERE IS *NO* SECRET, NOBLE DRUIG! YOU'VE HEARD *OLD WIVES TALES!*

DON'T FENCE WITH ME, RAGGED WIZARD! WHEN DRUIG SEEKS FACTS--HE GETS THEM!

H-HOW DID YOU FIND OUT ABOUT THIS THING? THE SECRET HAS BEEN KEPT FOR AGES!

THAT'S WHY I MUST KNOW IT NOW!

TELL ME! TELL ME!

AAAAA--!! YES, DRUIG... I-I--WILL!

I-IT IS A WEAPON --TOO COMPLEX A-AND TOO DANGEROUS TO CONTROL.

I-IT WAS DECIDED TO ABANDON ITS CONCEPT!

MY FATHER'S DECISION, NO DOUBT! GREAT VALKIN IS CAUTIOUS TO A FAULT!

IT WOULD BE WELL TO ADOPT HIS CAUTION, DRUIG! BEWARE OF THINGS WHICH DEFY UNDER-STANDING!

SUCH THINGS ARE WORTH EVERY RISK!

NO, DRUIG! YOU MUSTN'T PURSUE THIS FURTHER!

I WANT THAT WEAPON, SIGMAR! RESURRECT IT -- AND BLAST THE COST! THAT'S AN ORDER!

NEXT:

TO KILL A SPACE GOD

THE ETERNALS™

MARVEL® COMICS GROUP

APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

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# WHEN GODS WALK THE EARTH!

# THE ETERNALS™

SPEAK, IKARIS! OR SUFFER AS NO BEING EVER HAS!

NO, DRUIG! IF I DO, IT MEANS THE EARTH'S DESTRUCTION!

IKARIS COMES HOME-- TO FACE HIS EVIL COUSIN AND THE MADDENING MENACE OF THE NERVE BEAST!

Strange events have exposed a startling fact, kept alive through the centuries only by myth and superstition—man is not alone on the evolutionary chain!! He has shared the planet with two species unknown to him! Now, in a sudden burst of violence, the Deviants have risen from their domain beneath the sea to challenge all humanity!! But mankind has unexpected allies—

# Stan Lee PRESENTS: THE ETERNALS!™

EDITED, WRITTEN AND DRAWN BY **JACK KIRBY** LETTERED 'N INKED BY **MIKE ROYER** COLORED BY **GLYNIS WEIN** MARVEL'S OWN ALTER-EGO **ARCHIE GOODWIN**

***THE SPACE GODS ARE BACK!!*** ONCE RECORDED IN ANCIENT STONE BY THE ANCESTORS OF MODERN MAN, THE GREAT CELESTIALS NOW ROAM OUR WORLD IN AWESOME MAJESTY, WHILE CAMERAS CLICK AND ENDLESS REAMS OF TAPE STAMP THEIR MASSIVE IMAGES FOR STUDY! BUT, AMONG THE ETERNALS THERE IS ONE WHO WOULD DO ***MORE*** THAN THAT! ***HE WOULD DARE***

# TO KILL A SPACE GOD!

AS THE TRANSLATOR IS ACTIVATED, THE RESURRECTED IMAGE OF AN ***ANCIENT*** TRAGEDY UNFOLDS. IT WAS DURING THE VISIT OF THE SECOND CELESTIAL HOST TO EARTH THAT THE SPACE GODS FOUGHT AMONG THEMSELVES--AND ONE OF THEM WAS ***DESTROYED!***

VIZZT!

YOU CAN ***SEE*** HOW THE WEAPON WAS USED! IT ***CONVERTED*** THE CELESTIAL TO PURE ENERGY!

DON'T PLAGUE ME WITH ***CLAPTRAP!*** I SEE SOMETHING ***BLASTING*** THE GIANT! BUT ITS CONSTRUCTION IS ***NOT*** CLEAR!

THOUGH IT HAPPENED COUNTLESS CENTURIES AGO, I AM *STILL* SHAKEN BY THE SIGHT OF IT!

THIS IS THE *ONLY* RECORD IN EXISTENCE OF SUCH AN *AWESOME* EVENT!

BUT, THE WEAPON--!! THERE WAS *NOT* ENOUGH SEEN OF IT TO DEFINE THE *SOURCE* OF ITS POWER!

TO MAKE *ANOTHER* WOULD BE *IMPOSSIBLE* !!

ALL THAT IS *KNOWN* OF THE WEAPON WAS TRANSLATED ON THE SCENE BY THIS ANCIENT *IMAGE-BLOCK!*

YOU *LIE,* SIGMAR! *YOU LIE!!*

*MAGGOT-RIDDEN WIZARD!* DID YOU THINK TO ALLAY MY ANGER WITH SUCH A *WITLESS* MANUEVER?

NO-- *NO!*

KRAK

DID YOU THINK I'D ACCEPT THIS *JUNK* AS THE *FINAL* EVIDENCE?

*FOOL!* YOUR MACHINE WAS *NOT* THE ONLY WITNESS AT THAT ANCIENT INCIDENT! YOU FORGOT TO INCLUDE THOSE WHO *USED* IT!

BY ALL WE HONOR, DRUIG-- *DON'T* PURSUE THIS FURTHER!

CRUNCH!

THERE WERE POLAR ETERNALS PRESENT! AND AMONG THEM-- *YOU,* SIGMAR--

*--YOU WERE THERE!*

YOU DREAM OF *PLAYING* WITH A FORCE WHICH ONLY THE SPACE-GODS CAN CONTROL!

THINK, DRUIG, *THINK!!*

*YOU KNOW OF THE WEAPON!*

IT IS A *CELESTIAL* WEAPON! *I COULD NOT DUPLICATE IT!*

*BUT, YOU TRIED, DIDN'T YOU? IT WAS IN YOUR POSSESSION! YOU STILL HAVE IT!!*

*SO, DOG!* THUS, THE TRUTH UNFOLDS AND LAYS *BARE* WHAT I SEEK!

*WHERE IS IT, SIGMAR? WHERE IS THE WEAPON !?*

I DON'T KNOW, DRUIG! IT WAS TAKEN FROM ME BY YOUR FATHER, *GREAT VALKIN!*

AT THAT MOMENT, SIGMAR FINDS HIMSELF BATHED IN *FLAME!*

*AAAAAA—!!* WHY DO YOU SCOURGE ME?! I-I'VE TOLD YOU *EVERYTHING!*

NOT YET, OLD WIZARD! THERE IS STILL A *TINY* GAP TO CROSS!

*NO! NO!* IT WOULD MEAN TO *BETRAY* THE CONFIDENCE OF VALKIN!

*HE HID THE WEAPON !!*

YOU WILL--WHEN YOU *WEAKEN! SPEAK,* CRAVEN ONE -- OR THE FLAMES GROW *HOTTER!*

*THE KEY TO ITS WHEREABOUTS LIES WITHIN IKARIS!*

*IKARIS!* FATHER'S FAIR-HAIRED NEPHEW! IT *WOULD* BE IKARIS WHO WAS CHOSEN TO BEAR THIS COSMIC SECRET!

YOU AND I SHALL *PRY* THIS MYSTERY FROM MY COUSIN--IN *ANY* MANNER THAT SEEMS FIT!

AS LONG AS YOU POSSESS THE POWER OF THE INFERNO, I AM *FORCED* TO DO YOUR BIDDING!

MEANWHILE, FAR FROM THE POLAR MOUNTAINS...

THE RETURN OF THE MIGHTY CELESTIALS TO THIS PLANET HAS ONCE MORE *STIRRED* UP THE *HUMAN* BEEHIVE AND PRESSED THE ETERNALS INTO ITS SERVICE!

FOR, WHAT IS IKARIS NOW, BUT A FLYING *EXTENSION* OF THEIR *CURIOUSITY*?

HELLO, STATION FOUR--! I'VE *CHECKED OUT* THIS *TELEVISION* CAMERA AND AM READY TO SEND PICTURES...

STAND BY TO RECEIVE IN FIVE MINUTES. I'M *LEVITATING* WITHIN SIGHT OF YOUR *TARGET!*

HE SEEMS TO BE *INSPECTING* A SMALL ISLAND OFF YOUR *GULF* COAST!,

WE'VE GOT IT ON *SCREEN,* IKARIS!

THERE HE IS --ALL *TWO THOUSAND* FEET OF HIM! MAKE WHAT YOU WILL OF THIS GIANT *ENIGMA!*

THE CELESTIAL IS *AWARE* OF MY PRESENCE, BUT THERE'S *NO* SIGN OF REACTION!

I'LL RISK A *CLOSE-UP* AS YOU REQUESTED!

AND AT STATION FOUR, SOMEWHERE IN WASHINGTON, D.C. ...

THE PRESIDENT WISHES TO THANK YOU AND YOUR ETERNALS FOR THIS COOPERATION, ***GREAT ZURAS!***

THE WELFARE OF ***HUMANS*** IS BOUND TO OUR ***OWN!*** WE DO SHARE THIS PLANET TOGETHER!

THAT'S A ***TERRIFIC*** SHOT! PHOTO-ANALYSIS MAY EVEN DIG OUT SOME ***FACIAL*** CONTOURS BEHIND THAT EYE-PIECE!

KEEP IT ***ROLLING,*** IKARIS: YOU'RE DOING ***FINE!***

AT PRESENT WE HAVE ***NO*** WISH TO APPROACH THESE CREATURES WITH MILITARY HARDWARE. IT COULD ***PROVOKE*** A TOUCHY SITUATION!

IT IS ***WISER*** TO LEARN FROM CAUTION--THAN ***CONFLICT!***

THAT'S ***EXACTLY*** WHAT WE'RE TRYING TO ***AVOID*** AT THIS TIME. HOWEVER... THESE SO-CALLED CELESTIALS ARE POPPING UP EVERYWHERE AND--

BUT--THEY MAKE NO HOSTILE MOVES! YOU MUST ***STILL*** THE FEARS OF YOUR PEOPLE AND KEEP THEM FROM THEIR PATH!

WHAT ARE THEY UP TO, ZURAS? ***WHO*** OR ***WHAT*** ARE THE CELESTIALS??

I ***THINK*** THAT THEY WILL TELL US ALL--WHEN THEY ARE ***READY.***

YOUR STATEMENT CARRIES ***OMINOUS*** ECHOES. IT SMACKS OF SOMETHING ***OMNIPOTENT*** AND ***UNAPPROACHABLE!***

THE SPACE GODS ARE ***NOT*** OMNIPOTENT! MERELY--***OLDER!!***

SUDDENLY...

--AND WHAT ABOUT *US!?* ARE WE TO BE FILED AWAY IN SOME REMOTE GOVERNMENT OFFICE WHILE *YOU* DEAL WITH SPACE GODS?

OH... MISS *SERSI*--

HOW *NICE* OF YOU TO REMEMBER MY NAME! YOU MAY *RECALL* THESE OTHER PATIENT PEOPLE IN OUR GROUP...

OF COURSE... PROFESSOR SAMUEL HOLDEN, MISS MARGO DAMIAN, AND THE SWIFT MAKARRI.

YOU CAN READILY SEE WHAT WE'RE CONTENDING WITH. THE CELESTIALS ARE EXPANDING THEIR OPERATION FROM A BASE IN THE *ANDES!*

MISTER BRADFORD IS EXPRESSING HIS COUNTRY'S *ANXIETY!*

WELL, *I'M* NOT ANXIOUS! BUT I *AM* GETTING BORED!

ONE OF OUR PLANES GOT THIS SNAPSHOT OVER CENTRAL AMERICA. DOES *THIS* FELLOW *INTEREST* YOU?

OH, THE SPACE GODS ARE MUCH TOO *BIG* AND *SILENT* TO BOTHER WITH!

FORGIVE HER, BRADFORD. IT IS *GAIETY*, NOT *GRAVITY*, THAT MOVES THIS FEMALE!

WELL... *ORDINARILY*, I'D RATHER THROW A *PARTY*, BUT--

DID YOU HEAR *THAT*, MAKARRI? HE'D *LIKE* A PARTY!

A *SOUND* IDEA.

ISN'T THAT A PERFECTLY EXCITING IDEA? I'LL GIVE A PARTY! RIGHT ***NOW!*** RIGHT ***HERE!***

***WAIT,*** SERSI--! MISTER BRADFORD ***DIDN'T*** MEAN--

SHE'S ***REALLY*** GOING TO DO IT! THERE'S ***NO*** STOPPING HER!

SERSI'S GRACEFUL HANDS BUZZ WITH ***POWER*** AS SHE GESTURES AT THE ROOM...

I'LL SIMPLY ***REARRANGE*** EVERY ATOMIC PARTICLE IN THIS ***STODGY*** PLACE!

WE MUST HAVE THE PROPER ATMOSPHERE FOR A GENUINE ***HOE-DOWN!***

THEN...

OH, NO! SHE'S CHANGED THE OFFICE INTO A BARN!

***WHAT IN BLAZES!?***

WELL ***DONE,*** GIRL!

THE FIDDLER'S ***TUNING UP!*** I BELIEVE IT'S TIME TO ***"DO-SI-DO!"***

THERE ARE ***INDEED*** MYSTERIES WITHIN CERTAIN FEMALES WHICH ***SURMOUNT*** HOLOCAUSTS AND SPACE GODS!

GREAT ZURAS HAS SPOKEN! SHALL WE ***DANCE,*** MAKARRI?

AT THIS MOMENT, IT WOULD BE RIDICULOUS ***NOT*** TO!

I ***DON'T*** BELIEVE IT! THIS IS UTTERLY ***FANTASTIC!***

CALM YOURSELF, BRADFORD. IT'S NOT THE MOST UNPLEASANT WAY TO AWAIT THE RETURN OF IKARIS!

MEANWHILE, IKARIS HAS **COMPLETED** HIS RECONAISSANCE MISSION AND LEVITATES FROM THE SCENE...

I'VE GIVEN THE HUMANS A VIEW OF THIS CELESTIAL FROM **EVERY** ANGLE! LET **THEM** MAKE OF IT WHAT THEY WILL!

PERHAPS THESE INSCRUTABLE BEINGS WILL **DROP** THEIR MASKS ONE DAY! UNTIL THEN, WE MUST REMAIN **ALERT** AND READY!

IKARIS SUDDENLY **HURTLES** TOWARDS THE **WIND-SWEPT** UPPER STRATAS...

**VANISH,** CRISIS! **FLEE,** TENSION! THE SKIES ARE **STILL** FREE FOR THOSE WHO SEEK PEACE IN ITS BLUE DIMENSIONS!

HOW I **PITY** MY HUMAN BROTHERS WHO ARE DENIED THE JOYS OF LEVITATION FROM THEIR PROBLEMS BELOW!

THEN...

**CRACKLE!**

CORRECTION! THERE **MAY** BE A PROBLEM BREWING UP **HERE!**

THIS TINY CLOUD AND ITS **FIERY** CORE HAS SUDDENLY GROWN WITH AN **OMINOUS** RAPIDITY!

CAN IT BE SOME KIND OF **NATURAL** PHENOMENON?

THOSE BLAZING BOLTS ARE ***STALKING*** MY EVERY MANUEVER! I CAN FEEL A SHARP MAGNETIC PULL FROM THE CENTER OF THE CLOUD!

THEN . . .

I-IT'S A TRAP! I'M ITS PREY!!

CRACK-SH!

IKARIS STRUGGLES IN ***VAIN*** AGAINST THE FORCES IN THE CLOUD. HE IS DRAWN LIKE A ***FLY*** INTO ITS GLOWING NUCLEUS...

SUDDENLY THE CLOUD ***CONTRACTS*** ABOUT ITS VICTIM. IT FLASHES LIKE A TINY NOVA AND ***VANISHES*** FROM THE SKIES...

TSSSST!

AT THAT PRECISE MOMENT, IN THE POLAR MOUNTAINS...

***SPEAK,*** WIZARD! IS IT ***DONE?***

IKARIS IS ***TAKEN!***

THE DIMENSION CLOUD IS ***TRANSMITTING*** HIS ATOMS TO THIS VERY LABORATORY AT THE ***SPEED OF LIGHT!***

SAVE THAT GIBBERISH FOR YOUR FELLOW INTELLECTS!

***SHOW ME IKARIS !!***

BEHOLD! HE MATERIALIZES IN THE ATOMIC RE-ASSEMBLER!

I SEE HIM! YOU'VE TRULY DONE IT, SIGMAR!

FORTUNATELY, HE LIES IN SHOCK! HE CANNOT USE HIS DISINTEGRATOR EYE-BEAMS AGAINST US!

NEVER FEAR! I CAN NEUTRALIZE THEM BEFORE HE WAKENS!

SEE THAT YOU DO, WIZARD -- SINCE YOUR FATE IS NOW IRREVOCABLY BOUND TO MINE!

NOT SO, DRUIG! I DO YOUR BIDDING UNDER PROTEST! YOUR SAVAGERY ALONE BINDS ME TO YOUR EVIL WISHES!

EVEN AT THIS LATE MOMENT I MUST ONCE MORE URGE YOU TO ABANDON THIS MAD NOTION OF DESTROYING A SPACE GOD!

AS LONG AS THE WEAPON EXISTS, MY NOTION STANDS! AND YOU SHALL DO AS YOU'RE TOLD!

DRUIG STALKS OUT UPON AN OUTSIDE TERRACE TO SURVEY THE FROSTY DOMAIN OF THE POLAR ETERNALS...

THE WEAPON IS ***ALMOST*** IN MY HANDS! AND ITS TARGET ***APPROACHES*** FROM THE DIRECTION OF THE ICE MOUNTAINS!

DRUIG HAS GROWN ***INCREASINGLY*** DISTURBED SINCE THE ***CELESTIAL*** WAS SIGHTED!

A SPACE GOD IN OUR TERRITORY IS ***CERTAIN*** TO BRING US DAYS OF DIRE CRISIS!

I CAN ***SEE*** HIM NOW! THE GIANT MOVES SLOWLY, BUT HE DRAWS ***CLOSER*** EACH DAY!

WHATEVER HIS MISSION MAY BE, I SHALL CUT IT SHORT WITH ***ONE*** HEAVY AND DESTRUCTIVE BLOW!

WELCOME, CELESTIAL! DRUIG IS ANXIOUS TO STRIP YOU OF ***INVINCIBILITY*** AND PUT AN ***END*** TO YOUR SILENT ARROGANCE!

MY DEED SHALL RAISE ECHOES AROUND THE EARTH! THE NAME OF DRUIG WILL SURPASS EVEN THAT OF MY FATHER VALKIN!

COME, CELESTIAL --AND BE *CONQUERED!*

AT THAT MOMENT...

ALL IS *READY,* DRUIG. IKARIS HAS BEEN *PREPARED* FOR HIS ORDEAL.

*WELL DONE,* WIZARD! NOW, TO THE *TASK!*

SOON AFTER...

HOW DO YOU *FARE,* COUSIN IKARIS?

I AM AS YOU SEE ME, DRUIG --APPARENTLY IN *YOUR* POWER! MY MISFORTUNES HAVE EVER BEEN THE PRODUCT OF YOUR *SLY* BRAIN!

THIS IS NO MERE FAMILY QUARREL! WE PLAY FOR *HIGH* STAKES, IKARIS! A PRIZE OF *COSMIC* DIMENSIONS!

HE WANTS THE *WEAPON* OF THE SPACE GODS! I-I'M *UNABLE* TO STOP HIM--!

YOU'LL FIND ME A *HARDER* NUT TO CRACK, DRUIG! I'LL *ROT* BEFORE I TELL YOU ANYTHING!

AND I CAN SMELL *TRIUMPH* WHEN YOU BARE YOUR FANGS *TOO SOON,* COUSIN!

SUDDENLY...

*AAAAA--!! HE BIT ME! THE SWINE BIT ME!*

WHY *PROLONG* THIS CHILD'S GAME? DO WHAT *MUST* BE DONE --AND PUT AN *END* TO THIS!

YES! WE'LL SEE HOW IKARIS TAKES TO PAIN! **RELEASE THE NEURAL BEAST!**

**FORGIVE** ME FOR WHAT I MUST DO!

CAN YOU FORGIVE **YOURSELF,** WIZARD?

SO BE IT!

THE **NEURAL BEAST** IS AN **UNPLEASANT** ANIMAL, BUT IT WILL GET THIS OVER WITH **QUICKLY!**

THE RESULT HAD BETTER **PLEASE** ME!

IT SHALL!

BEHOLD! MY ONE AND ONLY EXPERIMENT WITH **LABORATORY LIFE!** THIS CREATURE ATTACKS THE **NERVE SYSTEMS** OF OTHER LIVING THINGS!

**BY THE GODS!!**

WE SHALL NOW SEE IF THE **STEEL** NERVES OF IKARIS CAN **WITHSTAND** SUCH AN ONSLAUGHT!

THIS IS THE **ONLY** WAY, DRUIG! IF IKARIS IS TO YIELD THE SECRET, HE MUST BE PUT TO **SEVERE** PHYSICAL AND EMOTIONAL STRESS!

**SUDDENLY** THE NEURAL BEAST **ATTACHES** ITS PROBES TO ITS VICTIMS SKULL...

AAAA

STRONG BEAMS OF ELECTRICAL FORCE STAB INTO THE CORE OF NERVES...

EEAAAA!

I *UNDERESTIMATED* YOUR HANDIWORK, SIGMAR! AN ARMY COULD *NOT* DO THIS TO HIM!

I *CURSE* YOU AND YOUR *PLAN!*

AAAAAA!

UURRRRR!!

*POOR* IKARIS! IT'S *TOO* MUCH TO BEAR!

COME BACK, YOU *WEAKLING!*

IF YOU HAVEN'T THE SPINE TO SEE THIS THROUGH, I'LL *STRAP* YOU TO ONE OF YOUR *OWN* MACHINES!

THERE'S *NO* NEED OF THAT! THE TASK IS *DONE!* I INTEND TO *REMOVE* THE ANIMAL!

UNCOILING THE ROPE, SIGMAR RUSHES IN TO BIND THE NEURAL BEAST...

FEAR NOT, IKARIS! THIS THING WILL CAUSE YOU NO FURTHER PAIN!

*OFF WITH YOU, DEMON-SPAWN!* BACK TO THE SANCTUM OF YOUR *CAGE!*

EXAMINE YOUR COUSIN, DRUIG! LOOK **CLOSELY** AT HIS FOREHEAD-- FOR A **SIGN!**

I SEE NOTHING BUT SIGNS OF A FIERCE **INNER** STRUGGLE!

YOU'VE HAD A **BAD** TIME OF IT, IKARIS! IF YOU HAVE ANYTHING TO SAY--**SAY IT NOW!**

**BURN** WITH YOUR DEMONS, **FOUL** ONE!

THE NEURAL BEAST IS **NEARBY!** I CAN STILL HAVE HIM **RETURNED** TO YOUR SIDE!

**BURN, DRUIG!! BURN IN THE PITS!!**

**HOLD!** THAT'S MORE THAN A **BRUISE** UPON YOUR FOREHEAD! IT'S SOME SORT OF-- **SYMBOL!**

IT IS AS SIGMAR PREDICTED! YOUR RAGE HAS **BETRAYED** THE SECRET YOU CARRY!

THE WEAPON I SEEK IS HIDDEN IN THE **PYRAMID OF THE WINDS!** I'VE WON, IKARIS!

NEXT: A FIGHT TO THE FINISH IN ...

# THE PYRAMID

THE ETERNALS™

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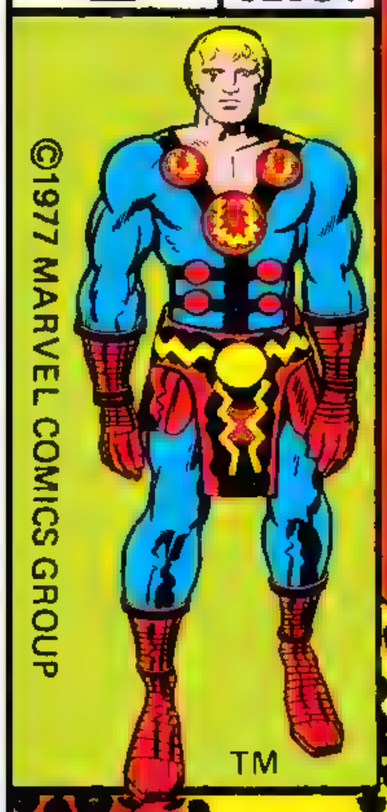

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# WHEN GODS WALK THE EARTH!

# THE ETERNALS™

THE *END* OF THE ETERNALS --AND *EARTH* AS WELL?! *ALL ANSWERS* LIE WITHIN-- THE PYRAMID!

WE'RE *TOO LATE*, IKARUS!

WHAT YOUR MAD COUSIN, *DRUIG* HAS UNLEASHED, *NO LIVING BEING CAN STOP!*

Strange events have exposed a startling fact, kept alive through the centuries only by myth and superstition—man is not alone on the evolutionary chain!! He has shared the planet with two species unknown to him! Now, in a sudden burst of violence, the Deviants have risen from their domain beneath the sea to challenge all humanity!! But mankind has unexpected allies—

# Stan Lee PRESENTS: THE ETERNALS!™

EDITED, WRITTEN AND DRAWN BY **JACK KIRBY** • INKER/LETTERER: **MIKE ROYER** • SUPER COLORIST: **GLYNIS WEIN** • INTELLECTUALIST: **ARCHIE GOODWIN**

AMONG THE POLAR ETERNALS THERE IS ONE WHO WOULD ***DARE*** TO DESTROY A SPACE GOD!! BUT, THERE IS ANOTHER WHO IS ***DETERMINED*** TO STOP HIM! THEY WILL ***MEET!*** ...THEY WILL ***CLASH!*** ...THEY WILL DECIDE THE ***FATE*** OF EARTH ... IN --

# The PYRAMID

MY COUSIN, IKARIS, STRIVES TO ***ESCAPE*** HIS PRISON! I MUST LEAVE HIM WITH A FEW WORDS OF COMFORT BEFORE I DEPART UPON MY MISSION!

***ABANDON*** THE COURSE YOU'VE TAKEN, DRUIG! WHAT YOU PLAN TO DO IS SHEER ***MADNESS!***

HEED HIS WORDS, YOU ***RECKLESS*** FOOL! YOUR ACTION COULD TRIGGER A ***COSMIC HOLOCAUST!!***

I'LL KEEP THAT IN MIND, ***NOBLE*** IKARIS!

THE DECISION IS ***MINE*** ALONE! IT WILL SHAPE THE ***FUTURE*** OF MAN!

THERE WILL BE NO FUTURE!! ***DON'T YOU UNDERSTAND?!?***

IF YOU ***DESTROY*** A SPACE GOD HIS COMPANIONS WILL ***SHATTER*** THIS PLANET AND ***ALL*** WHO LIVE UPON IT!

***HUMANITY WILL PERISH, DRUIG!!***

I'VE HAD ***ENOUGH*** OF YOUR ADVICE!

***BLAST YOU, DEMON!***

OUR CAPTIVE'S ***REGAINING*** HIS SPIRIT, SIGMAR! HOW ***SOON*** WILL HE BE AT FULL STRENGTH?

PERHAPS IN TIME TO ***STOP*** YOU!!

HE'LL ***NOT*** BE AS WEAK AS I!

HE WILL ***CHALLENGE*** YOUR POWER OF SOLAR FLAME!

***CAUTION,*** WIZARD, LEST I REDUCE YOU TO A ***CINDER!***

TIME GROWS *SHORT!*

DESTINY FORBIDS MY TARRYING WITH BLEATING SHEEP!

*STAY* AND AWAIT MY RETURN, *RAGGED ONE!*

I *OBEY*, DRUIG!

CRASH!

GUARD IKARIS WELL! I RELY ON YOUR *WIZARD'S TRICKS* TO KEEP HIM DOCILE AND *CONTENT* WITH HIS SMELLY QUARTERS!

THIS SHALL BE DONE.

FAREWELL, THEN! I LEAVE FOR THE *PYRAMID OF THE WINDS!* WHEN I FIND WHAT I WANT, GIANTS SHALL *FALL* -- AND DRUIG, THE SON OF GREAT VALKIN, WILL RISE IN THEIR PLACE--TO *TOWER* ABOVE MEN AND THEIR PUNY ACHIEVEMENTS!

THUS ARE *DISASTERS* BORN--IN THE MINDS OF *DEMON-DRIVEN MADMEN!*

SOON AFTER...

THIS *ICE-RUNNER* IS *PERFECT* FOR MY NEEDS! IT IS EQUIPPED TO *OVERCOME* ALL HOSTILE ELEMENTS!

LET THE CENTURIES OF SILENCE FADE LIKE TATTERED GHOSTS! LET THE PYRAMID *YIELD* ITS INSTRUMENT FOR COSMIC *DESTRUCTION!!*

MANY MILES LATER...

THE PYRAMID IS WITHIN SIGHT! ONCE I *CROSS* THE ENTRANCE TO ITS APPROACHES, THE *KILLING WIND* WILL *ACTIVATE!*

TO LEVITATE IN THAT HOWLING AIR MASS IS *IMPOSSIBLE!* BUT, THIS VEHICLE CAN GENERATE A *PROTECTIVE SHIELD* TO GET ME THROUGH!

DRUIG *HURTLES* AHEAD AND COLLIDES WITH A *SAVAGE* WINDSTORM...

*FORCE FIELD-- ON--!*

REEEEEE

INSIDE THE FORCE FIELD, DRUIG'S VEHICLE STREAKS *FORWARD* UNAFFECTED...

HE *FINALLY* REACHES THE SOURCE OF THE WINDS: A GIANT *SPINNING* MECHANISM...

THE PYRAMID IS *BEYOND* THIS OPENING! I'VE *ARRIVED!*

THE BRIDGE OF TERROR IS *CROSSED!* IN THAT PYRAMID BELOW, THE CELESTIAL WEAPON LIES WAITING FOR THE STRONG ARM OF A *CONQUEROR!!*

DRUIG LANDS HIS VEHICLE IN THE GREAT CHAMBER AND *RACES* TO THE BASE OF THE PYRAMID...

THE *ENTIRE* WALL IS LINED WITH DOORS! BEHIND ONE OF THEM IS THE *ONLY* PRIZE WORTH TAKING FROM THIS MAUSOLEUM!

WHICH IS THE DOOR TO *OPEN?*

EACH DOOR BEARS A SYMBOL OF DESIGNATION *UNKNOWN* TO ME!

*BLAST* SIGMAR AND HIS TREACHEROUS WAYS! HE *DELIBERATELY* WITHHELD HIS KNOWLEDGE OF THE CORRECT SYMBOL!

BUT I SHALL FIND IT! I *SHALL FIND IT!!*

MEANWHILE...

DRUIG *MUST* BE STOPPED! IF THE WEAPON THAT KILLS CELESTIALS FALLS INTO HIS HANDS, THIS WORLD IS *DOOMED!*

HAVING BEEN *WEAKENED* BY SIGMAR'S GADGETRY, I AM STILL *UNABLE* TO COPE WITH HIM!

BUT, I CAN FEEL MY STRENGTH RETURNING! I PRAY THAT TIME IS KIND AND QUICK TO *RESTORE* THE POWER I NEED IN THIS *URGENT* MOMENT!

THE EYES OF IKARIS SUDDENLY GLOW AND SPUTTER WITH WHITE-HOT SPARKS...

A *TEST* WILL REVEAL MY *PRESENT* CAPABILITY--!

KRAK

MY *DISINTEGRATOR* BEAMS HAVE YET TO REACH POTENT FORCE, BUT... THEY'VE CUT *THROUGH* THIS WOOD SLIVER!

IT IS ENOUGH TO MAKE A *TRY* FOR FREEDOM! DESTINY PLAYS NO FAVORITES! MY CHANCES ARE AS *GOOD* AS DRUIG'S!

ONCE MORE THE EYE-BEAMS BLAZE. SLOWLY AND STEADILY THEY BURN A NARROW GAP IN THE METAL ROOF ABOVE IKARIS...

SSSSSS!

I CAN NOW GET A PROPER GRIP ON THIS METAL! WHATEVER STRENGTH HAS RETURNED TO MY SINEWS MUST DO THE *REST!*

KKRRAAAKKK

BY THE GODS, *I'VE DONE IT!*

IKARIS IS *FREE--*

--AND THE FIGHT IS NO LONGER TO THE *SLY!*

*NO! NO!!*

BLONK!!

I SHOULD *DESTROY* YOU WHERE YOU STAND, SIGMAR! *BETRAYAL* IS A COSTLY CRIME!!

*STAY BACK!* I-I CAN DEFEND MYSELF!

*QUAKING TOAD!* WITH YOUR HELP, DRUIG WAS ABLE TO *WREST* FROM WITHIN ME THE WHEREABOUTS OF A *DREADED* FORCE!

I HAD *NO* CHOICE BUT TO SERVE HIM! HE'D HAVE *BURNT* ME TO A CRISP!

AND I WOULD CRUSH YOU TO PULP -- IF I DIDN'T *NEED* YOUR KNOWLEDGE OF THE *PYRAMID!*

YOU'RE COMING WITH ME!!

YES-- *YES!* I AM AT *YOUR* COMMAND!

BELIEVE ME, IKARIS, *I* AM AS EAGER TO STOP DRUIG AS *YOU* ARE! I ONLY HOPE WE CAN *REACH* HIM IN TIME!

PRAY THAT WE DO, WIZARD, OR ALL IS *LOST!*

NOW-- *LEVITATE!!*

THE INSCRUTABLE SPACE GODS HAVE BEEN A *SOURCE* OF WOE DURING EACH VISITATION! CENTURIES AGO THEY CAME AND FELL TO *FIGHTING* AMONGST THEM-SELVES!

IT WAS *THEN* THAT ONE OF THEM WAS *DES-TROYED!!*

THERE WERE POLAR *ETERNALS* ON HAND TO *WITNESS* THAT EPIC BATTLE!

WHEN THE CELESTIALS LEFT THEIR COSMIC WEAPON BEHIND, WE HID IT -- UNTIL THIS DAY OF DRUIG'S MAD DREAM OF *ULTIMATE* POWER!

SUDDENLY...

NOW, THE CELESTIALS WALK AMONG US ONCE MORE! BEHOLD THIS *INTRUDER* UPON OUR DOMAIN!

THE GIANT MOVES IN THE DIRECTION OF THE *PYRAMID!*

HE MAY WELL ***USE*** IT UPON THIS SILENT BEHEMOTH -- AND BRING US TO WAR WITH FORCES WHICH HAVE ***COWERED*** GALAXIES!

FASTER, WIZARD-- ***FASTER!***

VALKIN PRESERVE US!

IF DRUIG ***FINDS*** THAT WEAPON...

DRIVEN BY ***DESPERATION***, THE TWO ETERNALS ***INCREASE*** THEIR FLIGHT SPEED UNTIL...

LEVITATE NO ***FURTHER***, IKARIS! BEYOND THIS POINT THE ***KILLING WINDS*** BEGIN! WE WOULD BE ***TORN*** TO SHREDS!

THEN YOU ***MUST*** KNOW OF AN ***ALTERNATE ROUTE*** TO THE PYRAMID!

IT IS THE ONLY FACT I ***KEPT*** FROM DRUIG!

THOUGH ETERNALS ***CANNOT*** DIE, THEY CAN BE ***SEVERELY*** TWISTED OUT OF SHAPE!

***FOLLOW ME!***

REMEMBER THAT... IF ***TREACHERY*** IS IN YOUR THOUGHTS!

THE ***PASSAGE*** LIES AT THE BOTTOM OF THIS ***PIT!***

IKARIS IS LED INTO THE INKY DARKNESS BELOW...

YOU DID **WELL** TO CLEAVE TO THE TRUTH, SIGMAR! THE PASSAGE **EXISTS!**

IT RUNS BENEATH THE WIND CORRIDOR ABOVE US! WHEN WE EMERGE, IT WILL BE **IN** THE PYRAMID CHAMBER!

MEANWHILE, AT THE PYRAMID...

THIS IS THE DOOR I SEEK!

SSSSSS!

IT BEARS THE SYMBOL WORN BY **IKARIS** HIMSELF! AND WHO BUT THE KEEPER OF THE **SECRET** WOULD LIVE WITH ITS SIGN?!

I SEE IT!

THE WEAPON IS HERE IN THIS ROOM!

MY FINGERS NEED ONLY TO REACH OUT AND GRASP UNDREAMED OF POWER!

IT IS A PISTOL MADE FOR A **GIANT'S** HAND! BUT--I CAN **HARNESS** IT TO FIT MY **OWN!**

SUDDENLY...

BURY YOUR WILD DREAM OF CONQUEST, DRUIG! IT SHALL NEVER MATERIALIZE!

YIELD, DRUIG!

IKARIS! SIGMAR! SO... YOU TWO HAVE JOINED FORCES!

I'LL SEE YOU WITHER IN THE FLAMES OF THE INFERNO BEFORE I ABANDON MY PLANS!!

BURN! BURN!!

T-THAT WAS TOO CLOSE FOR COMFORT!

DON'T PANIC, WIZARD! MY SPEED AND STRENGTH IS A MATCH FOR THE HANDS WHICH TRIGGER INFERNOS!

THIS SHOULD COOL YOUR ARDOR FOR CASTING FLAME AT OTHERS!

POW!

UGH! YOU'LL PAY FOR THIS!

THERE IS A SCORE TO BE SETTLED FIRST --A DEBT FOR IMPRISONMENT AND SUFFERING!

IT'S TOO LATE FOR TALK OF DEBTS! THE ULTIMATE POWER IS WITHIN MY GRASP!

DESPERATION FILLS DRUIG WITH ***SAVAGE*** STRENGTH HE LASHES OUT AT IKARIS...

***AWAY, FOOL!*** NOT EVEN THE SPACE GODS CAN STOP ME NOW!

WOMP!

THAT CELESTIAL WEAPON ***WAITS*** FOR A HAND AND HEART WITH THE WILL TO SWEEP THIS PLANET ***CLEAR*** OF ALL OPPOSITION!

AND I ***VOW*** THAT THE DEMONS OF THE PITS SHALL HAVE YOU ***FIRST!***

***BLAST YOU!*** LET ME GO!

NOT WHILE I ***STILL*** CAN REASON! ***YIELD, DRUIG!***

***NEVER!*** DO YOU HEAR ME?!? ***NEVER!!***

I'LL ***CHANGE*** YOUR MIND ***RIGHT NOW!***

IKARIS IS SUDDENLY STRUCK BY A ***FIRE BOLT...***

YOU CROW TOO ***SOON,*** COUSIN!

TSSSHHH!!

THE GAME AND THE PRIZE ARE ***MINE--!***

***NO!! NOT YET!!***

IKARIS MARSHALLS THE ***POTENT*** MENTAL CONTROL OF MATTER, COMMON TO AN ETERNAL, AND ***SCATTERS*** THE HEAT ELECTRONS ...

ZZZTTT!!

AT THAT MOMENT SIGMAR DASHES TO HIS SIDE...

DRUIG ALMOST FINISHED YOU BECAUSE YOU SOUGHT TO TAKE HIM ***ALIVE!*** IT CAN'T BE DONE! HE MUST BE ***DESTROYED!***

IF YOU MEAN--

YOU KNOW ***EXACTLY*** WHAT I MEAN! ***DISINTEGRATE DRUIG! HE'S REACHED THE WEAPON!***

BUT--HE'S OF MY ***FAMILY***--THE SON OF GREAT ***VALKIN!***

ONCE HE TRIGGERS THAT WEAPON HE WILL ***RELEASE*** A FORCE WHICH WILL WIPE OUT ***ALL*** FAMILIES!

***ACTIVATE YOUR DISINTEGRATOR EYE-BEAMS! DESTROY HIM!***

I-I HAVE ***NO*** CHOICE!

BUT EVEN AS IKARIS DECIDES TO ACT...

WHRRRR!!

***THE FIRING MECHANISM IS IN OPERATION!***

***I NOW COMMAND THE POWER OF THE SPACE GODS!!***

I MUST DISSOLVE THAT WEAPON ***BEFORE*** IT FIRES!

THE WEAPON ***DISINTEGRATES***-- BUT NOT BEFORE THE DEVOURING CELESTIAL FORCE IS ***UNLEASHED...***

***IKARIS!*** I'M CAUGHT IN THIS DEVILISH STARFIRE!

***HELP ME! HELP ME!!***

DRUIG ***VANISHES*** ALL TOO QUICKLY IN THE EXPANDING HOLOCAUST! THEN, IT FEEDS ON THE PLATFORM AND REACHES OUT FOR ***EVERY*** MATERIAL SUBSTANCE IN ITS PATH...

DRUIG IS GONE! ***HOW*** DO WE STOP THIS, WIZARD?!

W-WE ***CAN'T!***

BUT IT'S GROWING MORE ***POWERFUL*** WITH EACH PASSING ***SECOND!*** THE FORCE IS BURSTING FROM THE CHAMBER!

IT WILL SOON DESTROY THE PYRAMID ITSELF! ***FLEE, IKARIS!***

KRAK

***HASTEN!*** WE'VE GOT A CHANCE IF WE CAN REACH THE ***PASSAGE***

***THE PYRAMID IS COLLAPSING!***

BLAAM!!!

ALIEN IN ORIGIN AND ALL-CONSUMING IN ITS NATURE, THE ***DESTRUCTIVE*** FORCE TURNS THE GIANT PYRAMID INTO A MASS OF ***BLAZING*** ENERGY...

I'VE BEEN ***INJURED,*** IKARIS! LEAVE ME! ***SAVE YOURSELF!***

NOT EVEN ***FOOLS*** DESERVE SUCH A DEATH! YOU'RE COMING WITH ***ME,*** SIGMAR!

SOON AFTER...

I'VE ***FOUND*** THE PASSAGE! KEEP CALM, AND WE SHALL ***OUTRUN*** THIS FIERY NIGHTMARE!

YOUR EFFORTS ARE VALIANT, BUT IN ***VAIN!*** THERE IS NO ESCAPE--NO ESCAPE FOR ***ALL*** MANKIND!

BAROOM!!

WHY DO YOU ***PERSIST*** IN STRUGGLING AGAINST FATE?! LET US FACE IT -- AND PERISH WITH ***DIGNITY!***

***COURAGE,*** WIZARD! WE'VE REACHED THE MOUTH OF THE PASSAGE!

THOUGH DESTRUCTION ***STILL*** PURSUES US, WE ARE ALIVE TO MAKE A STAND AGAINST A ***HOSTILE*** FATE!

SPOKEN LIKE A ***WARRIOR!*** BUT I TELL YOU THAT THERE IS ***NO*** HOPE!

***LOOK BELOW!*** THE LAND SEETHES AND CRACKS IN THE THROES OF ***DEATH!***

NEVER HAVE I SEEN THE LIKES OF ***THIS!***

THE FORCE IS CONSUMING ***EVERY*** ATOM OF THE ROCK BENEATH THE SURFACE! IN A MOMENT IT WILL BREAK THROUGH AND SPREAD ACROSS THE HORIZON!

***CURSED*** WAS THE DAY THAT DRUIG DECIDED TO ***USE*** THIS POWER!

YOUR PROPHECY OF DOOM IS ***MATERIALIZING!*** TAMPERING WITH THE TOOLS OF THE CELESTIALS MAY HAVE BEEN MAN'S ***FINAL*** ERROR!

I TRIED TO ***WARN*** DRUIG! HAD I ONLY BEEN BRAVE ENOUGH TO ***STOP*** HIM!

SUDDENLY...

IT'S THE *SPACE-GOD!* THE GIANT THAT DRUIG MEANT TO *DESTROY!*

HE *SEES* THE DANGER!

ZIRAN OF THE FOURTH HOST KNOWS THE SITUATION QUITE WELL. WITH RAISED HAND, HE *GESTURES* AT THE ADVANCING INFERNO AND RELEASES THE *COUNTERFORCE*...

POTENT BEAMS SWEEP *WIDE* ACROSS THE BURNING LAND. WHERE THEY TOUCH THE *BLAZING* STAR-FIRE, IT FADES AND DIES...

THE PROCESS IS REPEATED UNTIL THE SCARRED AND MOLTEN LANDSCAPE LIES SILENT AND *SAFE* FROM THE THREAT OF *TOTAL* DESTRUCTION...

STRANGER AND STRANGER ARE THE *VARIED* WAYS OF FATE! THAT TERRIBLE FORCE HAS FALLEN PREY TO ITS *INTENDED* VICTIM!

THE GREAT CELESTIAL HAD THE *ANSWER* TO THE PROBLEM ALL THIS TIME!

DRUIG COULD *NEVER* HAVE SUCCEEDED WITH HIS PLAN! THE SPACE GODS REMAIN AN UNCONQUERABLE *ENIGMA*-- MYSTERIOUS AND MAJESTIC AMONG THE CREATURES OF THE COSMOS!

THUS, LIKE HIS FELLOWS, THE CELESTIAL MOVES ON--PERHAPS DWELLING ON A *DISTANT* TIME WHEN MEN HAVE GAINED THE STATURE TO FACE THEM EYE TO EYE--AND KNOW *ALL!*

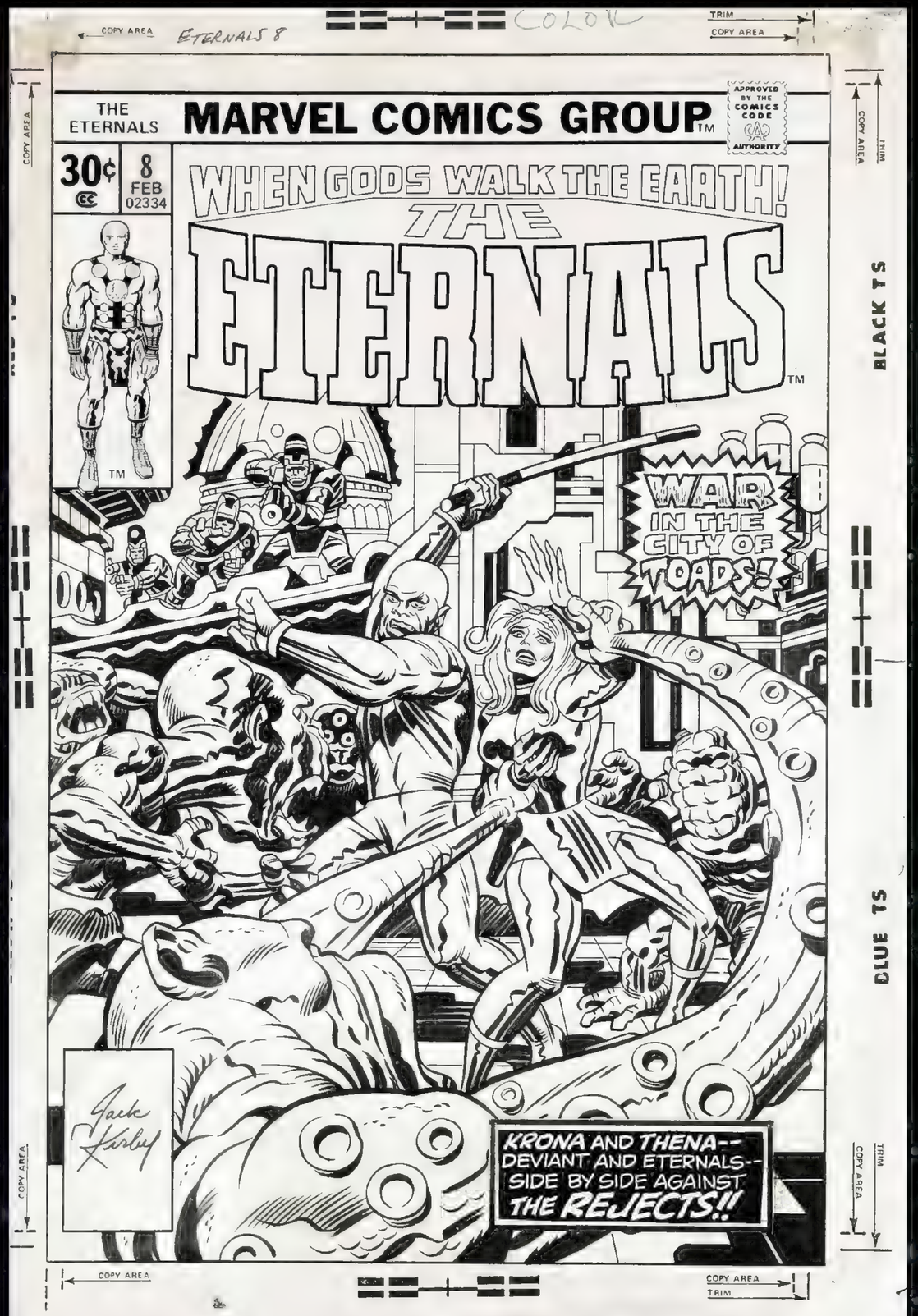
THE END...?

Ikaris character design
by Jack Kirby

*The Eternals* #2 unused cover pencil art
by Jack Kirby

Courtesy Len Callo

*The Eternals* #8 cover original art
by Jack Kirby & John Verpoorten

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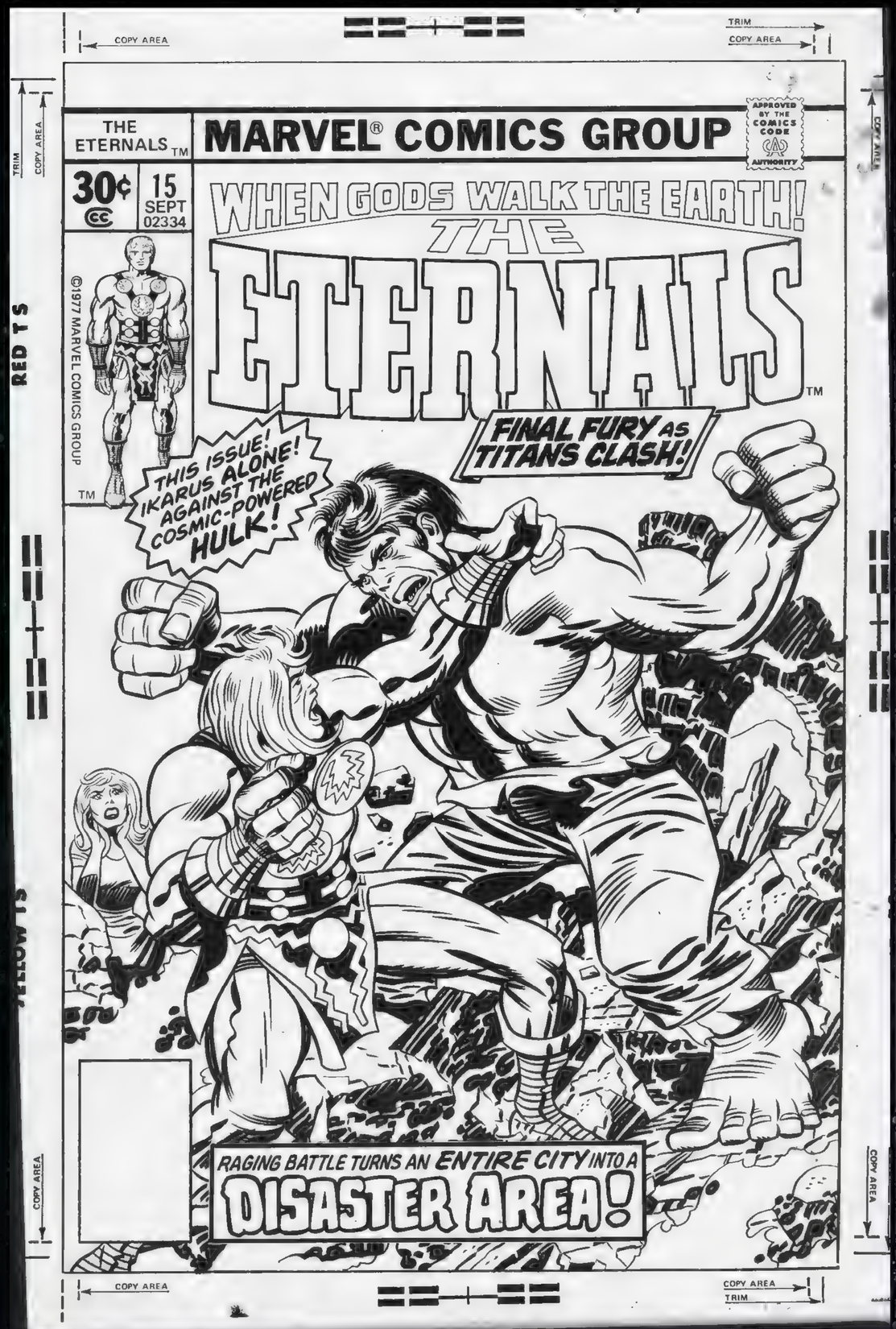
*The Eternals* #15, cover production photostat, featuring Jack Kirby & John Verpoorten's unaltered rendition of the Hulk's face.

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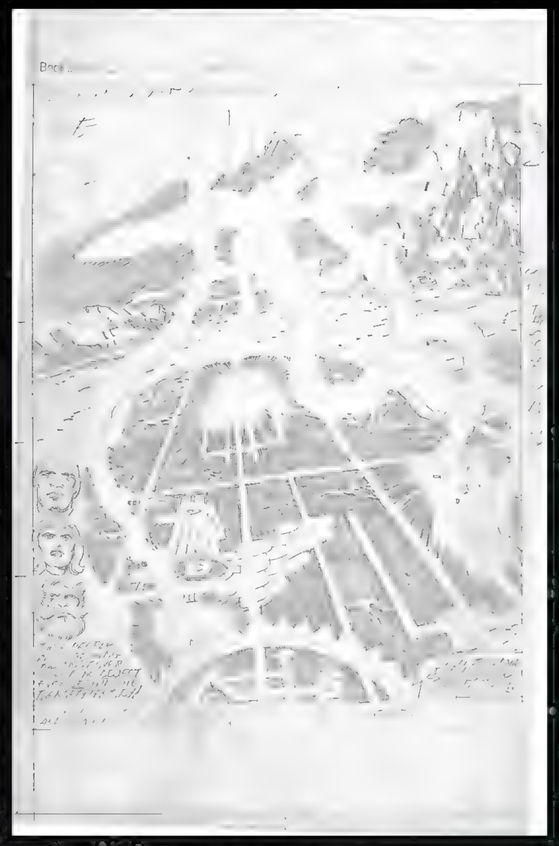

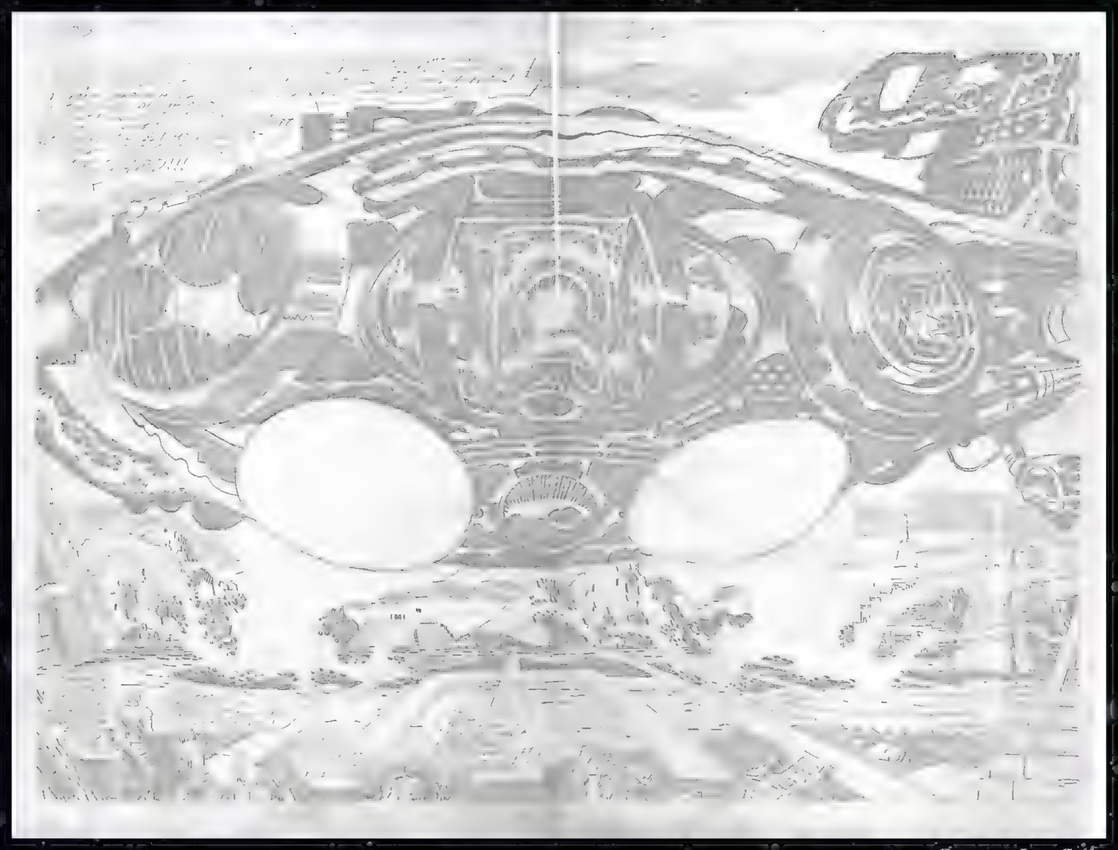

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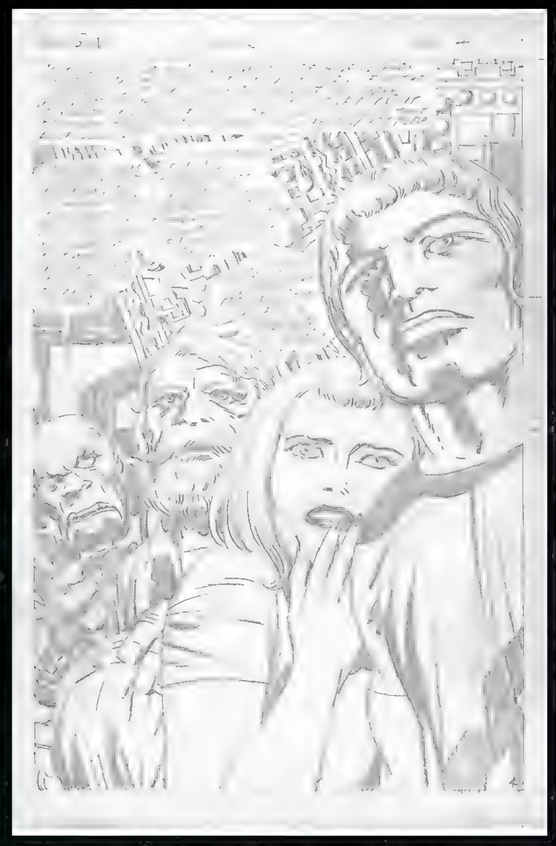
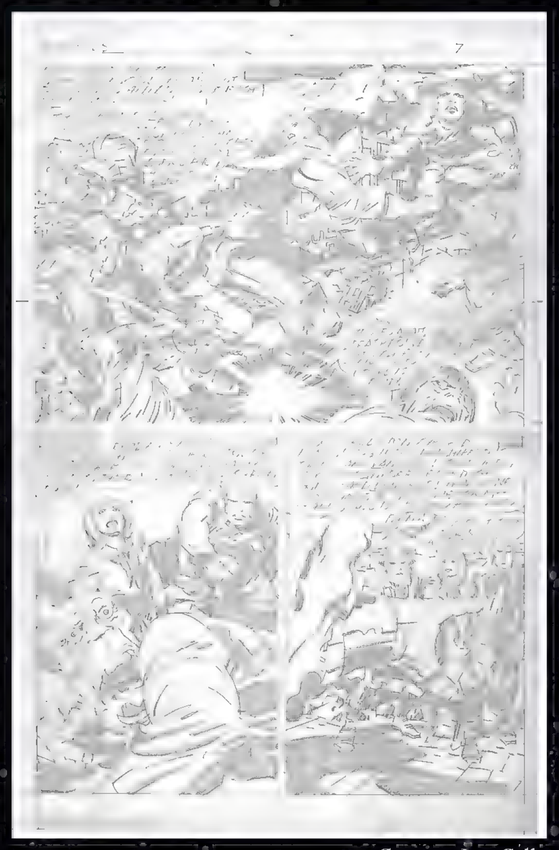
by Jack Kirby





Courtesy Len Callo

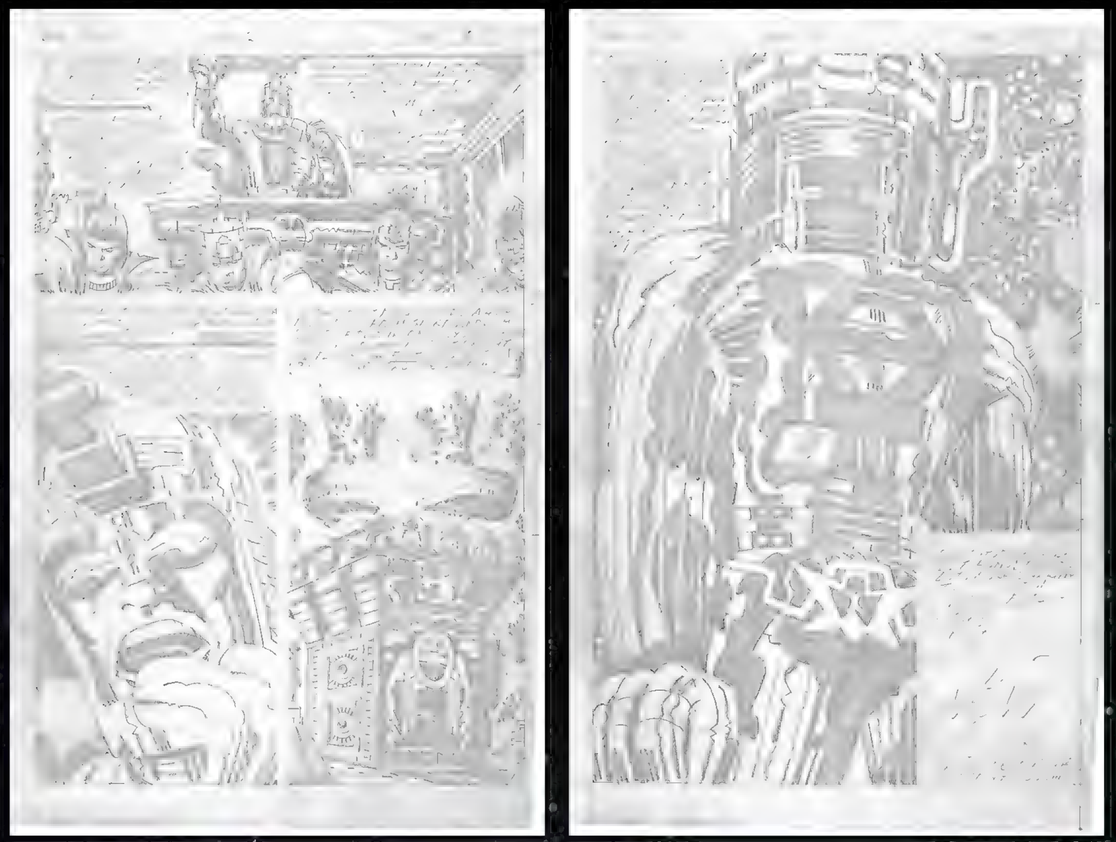
*The Eternals* #2, pages 8-11 pencil art
by Jack Kirby

Courtesy Len Callo

*The Eternals* #2, pages 12-15 pencil art
by Jack Kirby

Courtesy Len Callo

**TOP:** *The Eternals* #1, pages 16-17 pencil art, by Jack Kirby
**BOTTOM:** *The Eternals* #1 house ad, from July 1976 titles



Courtesy Len Callo

*The Eternals* house ad
from August 1977 titles

*The Eternals Annual* #1 house ad
from October 1977 titles

*The Eternals* #1 editorial
by Jack Kirby

# ETERNAL UTTERINGS

## c/o MARVEL COMICS GROUP, 575 MADISON AVE. N.Y.C. 10022

**Will The Gods Return Someday?**

If they truly exist, I believe they will. Of course, I speak of Gods in the historical sense, the kinds of beings who step ashore from places unknown and impress us with their very images, their manner of communication, and, above all, their display of transcendent power.

The Aztecs, who outnumbered the forces of Cortez by astronomical odds, were completely cowed by the sight of the Spaniard's horse and the effects of his cannon. Were they overcome by their own fear of the supernatural—or were they awed by what they viewed as the fulfillment of their own prophecy—the return of Quetzalcoatl and his band of super-beings, whose memory survived antiquity?

In my own recollection of the early jungle pictures, there was nothing more stupefying to the chattering natives of remote areas, than the sudden appearance of the movie's hero, whose "big white bird" had crash-landed in the center of the village.

Sure, they made him a God. And, if it had really happened, those natives would still be weaving tales about him today.

However, my point is, how often has this kind of thing happened in our past? How many of these so-called *Gods* have stumbled upon this boondock planet called Earth? How many of them have inspired the potent myths which not only laid the groundwork for man's many religions, professions, and sciences, but have left man with a massive mystery on his hands—one that just won't go away...

With the daily accumulation of new artifacts all over the globe, and the simultaneous input of UFO "flapology" on a worldwide scale, humankind is straining its "group memory" to dredge up a proper picture of the ancient past, in order to deal with the provocative incidents of contemporary issue.

The compelling quality inherent in this type of theme has led me to project its mystifying questions into comic magazine storytelling. It's *natural* for myself and for the comics fan who dearly loves the world that lies between fantasy and fact. We are, in a word, "sympatico."

Still, despite the fact that I've contrived my own version of those momentous confrontations of prehistory, I take them from the *de facto* questions of today.

What did happen in those remote days of men's early struggle for civilized status? What is the true meaning of the myths which shared a global similarity among diverse peoples? Did beings of an extra terrestrial nature touch down among us and influence our lives to this present day? And then, the all-important question of the lot—are these beings in some cosmic orbit which will lead them back to us someday?

The excitement generated by this last question is undeniable. It leads directly to ourselves, and to how we will react to their arrival. The grab bag of possibilities is a limitless spectrum of spine-tingling visions. They inspire everything from elation to paranoia.

At any rate, we can do nothing but sense the air of this century and look aloft, or listen for sounds not made on this world—or read THE ETERNALS for the vicarious thrill of anticipating, in story and pictures, the astounding experience of coming to grips with the kinds of creatures we imagine the Gods to be. Hey, if you're reading this, you're doing it!

--Jack Kirby

*The Eternals* #2 editorial
by Jack Kirby

# ETERNAL UTTERINGS

## c/o MARVEL COMICS GROUP, 575 MADISON AVE. N.Y.C. 10022

**Gods, Myths, and UFOs.**

All three of the above have never ceased to plague the thoughts of man since the day his mind first began to sort out all the details of his total environment.

Naturally, some of us in this day of advanced technology seem to think we've got it all summed up. But the sales of books and articles which speculate on the unknowns of our universe soar daily. We're still absorbed by the fantastic possibility of making a connection between the elements of our past and present that we feel might have an important bearing on our future.

What are we looking for in these unknowns? What do they represent that frustrates all interpretation? It seems that—somewhere in our collective make-up—there is a missing dimension which seeks definition, a need for omnipresent guidance from beings of unlimited power, a yearning for personal contact with the heavens, a ravenous curiosity to search the stars for...what?

"That," as Shakespeare wrote, "is the question." What is this strange instinct that turns us from the unsolved mysteries still locked in Mother Earth to make a fetish of the unseen *X*'s that lie beyond our skies? Do we have some sort of group hang-up that derails us whenever there's sky phenomena involved?

Isn't it strange that our mythical Gods and Goddesses live "up there"—as opposed to the terrible spirits and demons who reside in the hot, fiery core of the regions "down there?" Can it be that some part of us has its roots in deep space? Are we descended from a species that is not planet bound? There, again, is the eternal question! Why is there this mass obsession with the sky?

Despite the numerous "saucer flaps," and the intriguing speculations concerning artifacts of dead civilizations, it is the opinion of this writer that the true revelations which will lay bare our beginnings are still matters for the distant future. Our capabilities for achieving the truth are unfortunately too limited in this age. The hope lies with the evolution of instruments forged in the technical tinker shops of today. When they've reached the proper stage, they will guide our hands to the truth.

Of course, that will be an important time for our descendants. What this simple truth may promise for mankind will be their affair. We shall be phantoms of the past, perhaps adding to the complex and mysterious collage that man leaves behind him in his passage through the years.

How ironic it would be to witness the somber rituals of a Spider-Man cult in 2540 A.D.—or to be present at the "strength olympics" held in honor of the Hulk. New myths created in the twentieth century, and scattered by the printing press throughout the world, may well enlarge the giant puzzle that is humanity and make things much more difficult to decipher.

But we needn't worry about all that. We can have a great time with the few grains of truth already in our possession and space out by fantasizing the rest.

Let's dig up the ancient pots and chipped statues, and pore over the mystic symbols that give us a charge. Let's chase the UFOs from cornfield to briar patch and yell, "Hey! I've just seen a little bug-eyed dude from Venus!" Chances are that we'll never bring back one item to prove it, but—what the heck!—it's a great game. Everybody gets excited, and some poor nerd who wouldn't be noticed by his mother suddenly finds himself on television, telling the world via network hookup how he was picked up by a saucer in Denver and dropped off in downtown Miami ten minutes later.

I think that another, more rational way of truth-guessing can be found in pure entertainment—like reading THE ETERNALS. Something's there, all right! Something's possibly off target. But *one* thing is for sure: You won't be bored! In fact, you may get deep into the fun-game that held the interest of some of the real "biggies" of the history books. Good company, eh?

--Jack Kirby

*The Eternals* #18 letters page and editorial (inset)
by Jack Kirby

# ETERNAL UTTERINGS

c/o P. O. BOX 4943, THOUSAND OAKS, CA. 91360

Dear Jack,

I've followed THE ETERNALS since its inception, and I must admit to being impressed not only by the wide-ranging cast of characters, but by the competent way in which the many and varied subplots have been developed. Also, I was happy to see the inclusion of elements from the Marvel Universe — most notably, the agents from SHIELD, and I looked forward to seeing how you would handle the Hulk, both artistically and in relation to the storyline. Now that I've seen it, the predominate feeling I'm left with is one of sheer puzzlement. Why was it necessary to invent a new "Hulk" to battle Ikaris? What purpose does it serve? Reading ETERNALS #14 was like preparing for steak and getting soybean substitute. Granted, Len Wein is trying to settle the Hulk down a bit and give more time to Bruce Banner, but if that still leaves time for Ol' Greenskin to help out THE DEFENDERS, he should surely be able to schedule an in-person bout with Ikaris.

More than anything else, #14 was disappointing, and that's a lot to say to my favorite artist, whose series up until now has been consistently well-written and drawn. I can only suggest that, if the Eternals do meet with any other characters in the future, it should be in the flesh. And, even with what I consider a drawback, ETERNALS #14 was still a decent addition to the line.

Jerome Tracy
Box 650 Colonial Quad, S.U.N.Y.A.
Albany, NY 12222

Dear Jack and Archie:

*Look*, Jack—we're trying to meet you half way on this continuity thing, but you've got to make an effort, too. "Ikaris and the Cosmic Powered Hulk," was a great disappointment. I was looking forward to the first major meeting between an Eternal and one of the more established Marvel characters—and what do we get? A Hulk *robot* run amok! *I* feel cheated, right now—expecting to see a real fight between Ikaris and the Hulk-powered Hulk, not a cosmic-powered Hulk robot. Maybe you didn't want to foul up the sequence of events in the Hulk's magazine, but if so, it was a bad mistake. We readers can see the Hulk in THE DEFENDERS, while he's fighting for his life in his own magazine, with very little qualms.

I'm still looking forward to the first major meeting between an Eternal and one of the more established Marvel characters—because, brother, this isn't it.

Okay. I've got a few more technical questions. In this issue you said, "If it drops Makarri from that rooftop, the fall will not kill him—but it could injure him for eternity!" Other times, you have said the Eternals cannot be killed. Now, that's different from the Asgardian immortals who, although they're immune to old age and disease, can still die in battle. Are you trying to tell us, Jack, that even if Ikaris was in the middle of an H-bomb explosion, he could still survive? In the middle of the sun itself? In the middle of a supernova explosion? My question is very simple—HOW? The only way I can see it is if each cell in his body has the capacity to reproduce itself and other cells, eventually reforming a new Ikaris, even if only one cell is left. Jack, I read a lot of science-fiction, as you do, and I like occasional explanations for these things.

I'm still reading this mag, but it's becoming an act of loyalty, rather than pleasure. I still prefer *New Gods*, with its Biblical, rather Roger Zelazny-type style, to THE ETERNALS, which seems inspired by the nonsense of Von Dannikan's "Chariots of the Gods." Several things could improve the mag—a closer continuity with the rest of the Marvel mags; a different writer (you're one of the greatest artists and plotters comics has ever seen—surely that's enough?); less pretentious dialogue.

I hope you read these letters, Jack. Reader feedback—as Stan found out—can be one of the best things about the comics medium.

Al Schroeder III
2207 Old Hickory Blvd.
Nashville, TN 37215

**You're tellin' *us*, Al? We're the ones who eagerly await each new influx of masterful missives, scanning accolades and admonishments alike, and responding accordingly to the mandates of Marveldom Assembled! We appreciate your sincerity, your loyalty, and your concern. And we hope we'll always continue to merit your mighty missives, even if an occasional issue leaves you indignant, as this one seems to have done. You have correctly discerned the primary difference between the Eternals of Olympia and the Immortals of Asgard—however, to unfold further facts here would only frustrate Jack's future plans to present the intricacies of his incredible saga in the actual pages of forthcoming stories. Sorry, Al!**

**And now, before we take our leave, here's a few last words from the King himself. . .**

**How do we see the Eternals?**

**That is the question. And it's a big question, because it involves us all in a great cosmic adventure which began when the dinosaurs split the scene and humanity was first pushed on the stage of that universal *Gong Show* we call History.**

**Something happened back there, among the steaming ferns and moving continents of prehistoric Earth. And neither Walter Cronkite nor Howard Cosell nor your ever-lovin' current events teacher was there to take notes on the events we must nowadays sift from the myths, the mummies, and the skeletons that lay buried beneath tons of soil.**

**So what happened there, in that unreported, unwritten, mystifying beginning of things? How many mammoth events provided the oil which still spins the wheels of this plastic pickle-works we hail as modern civilization?**

**I feel that playing around with this sort of conjecture is highly entertaining, and that we should aim our gunsights at this giant puzzle we've inherited more often. We can't leave it all to the professors, pundits, and paperback prophets. The puzzle belongs to you and me as well. And beneath the Royal Aegis of Marvel Comics, you and I can get together and—carefully provisioned with all the junk food we can carry—just have ourselves a ball with the grand discussion of all the ideas and characters which spring from the yarns in pages such as these.**

**If you've read ETERNALS from issue #1, or just hooked in somewhere along the succeeding episodes, I'm certain that you can define the perspective of *my* thoughts on the subject.**

**My people and concepts are for your entertainment only. It is really my definition of life itself. I see it as a space and time given to the average rascal to utilize in a pleasurable manner until his slot is empty.**

**So, what do *you* think happened back there amid the prehistoric swamps? Could it have been something close to what I've presented? Are the Eternals, Deviants, and Space Gods a pleasing conjecture? Just what are your fancies? Are they serious, somber, flamboyant, or just plain freaky?**

**Whatever the case, send your letters to:**

**Eternal Utterings**
**P.O. Box 4943**
**Thousand Oaks, CA 91360**

**Let me know what you think, and we'll work ourselves up a smoky storm together!**

Jack Kirby

*The Eternals Annual* #1 editorial
by Jack Kirby

# ETERNAL UTTERINGS

c/o MARVEL COMICS GROUP, 575 MADISON AVE. N.Y.C. 10022

**WHY MUTATES?**

Due to recent discoveries dealing with the secrets of DNA, a controversial wind has been blowing across the land—a wind called "genetic engineering." The hobgoblin fears of four-armed freaks and bug-eyed monsters have just begun to nibble at the public consciousness. And, perhaps, with good cause.

In a way, these days are reminiscent of the pre-atomic era. In the early forties, atomic blowups were a prime item in the sale of science fiction pulps and early super-heroes. They were the stuff of spine-tingling tales that drew in readers by countless numbers. How we loved to play around with the atomics theme! I can remember utilizing an atomic cannon in one of my own stories to resolve some world-shaking incident. Then it was a more acceptable premise. Hiroshima and Nagasaki changed all of that.

Of course, it goes without saying that the bomb is an overwhelming part of our lives today. In underground silos throughout the world, missiles stand grim and silent, waiting for the command to rise and start their rain of death and destruction. It's a fact we've somehow learned to live with.

Well, to compound that little fear, we may now look forward to the tampering and restructuring of the building blocks of life itself—the manufacture of living oddities from the test tube—by hands and minds beyond our control.

Smacks of melodrama, doesn't it?

Admittedly I've gotten a lot of mileage out of the concept myself. No doubt I've even raised a few hackles with the more nightmarish visions that just naturally spring from such stories.

However, the truth of the matter is that the real thing is almost upon us. We may soon have our own Karkas and Tutinax as permanent guests. We might even find ourselves faced with the creations of a real-life High Evolutionary.

Yes, man is on the verge of producing actual mutates—living, breathing counterparts of our own fantasy creations—beings with powers and abilities beyond our imaginations. We'll be sharing this planet with them, and perhaps even competing with them for its use.

How will we meet this challenging reality when it finally appears on our doorsteps? There won't be any super-heroes to help us out then. It will be a task for *us*!

Think about it, friends.

JACK KIRBY


LET THE CRY RING OUT--DON'T SUCCUMB, READ--

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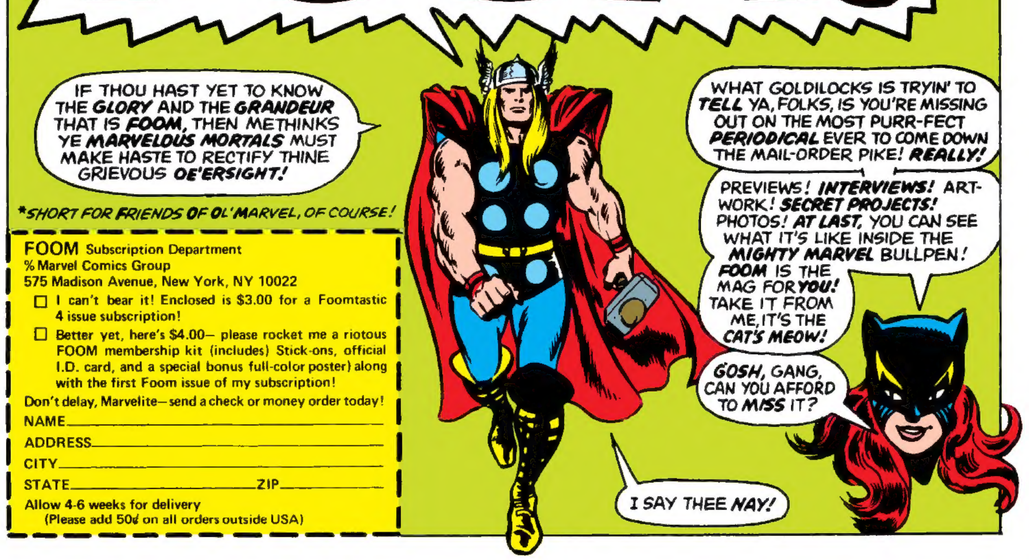


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*The Eternals by Jack Kirby Vol. 1* TPB (2008) cover
by Jack Kirby, John Verpoorten & Chris Sotomayor

Reprinting *The Eternals* #1-11

*The Eternals by Jack Kirby Vol. 2* TPB (2008) cover
by Jack Kirby, Frank Giacoia & Chris Sotomayor

Reprinting *The Eternals* #12-19 & *Annual* #1

# JACK KIRBY

Jacob Kurtzberg was born in 1917 and grew up in New York's gritty Lower East Side. It would be many years before he would adopt the name Jack Kirby, but his experiences in the neighborhood would help inform the work that later made him a legend. Unlike many of his rough-and-tumble peers, his imagination inspired him to look beyond the commonality of everyday life. He was inclined at an early age to pursue drawing, and he was also a guy who wanted to "get things done." This hard work ethic and ambition took him places most men of humble stations would never dream of going.

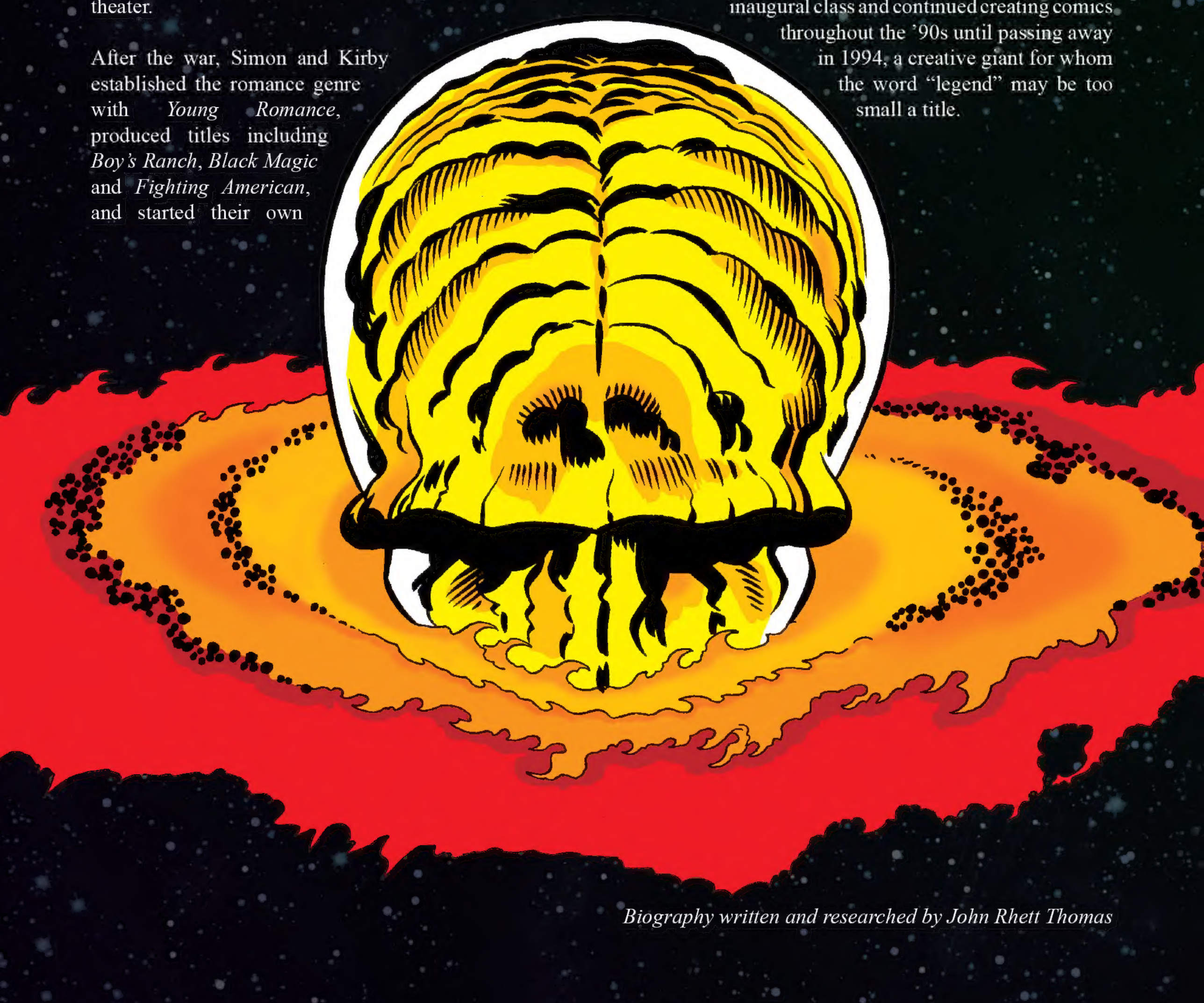
After early strip work helped get his name out to employers, a fateful meeting with artist Joe Simon connected the two at the hip and vaulted both of them into comics prominence. Together, they developed Captain America for Timely Comics, and Kirby immediately helped redefine what comics could be with his innovative page designs and proportion-exploding panels.

Soon, Simon and Kirby were working at National/DC, turning out hit kid-gang comics like *Newsboy Legion* and *Boy Commandos*, as well as super-hero fare like Sandman and Manhunter. He served honorably in World War II, with combat duties that took him through the European theater.

After the war, Simon and Kirby established the romance genre with *Young Romance*, produced titles including *Boy's Ranch*, *Black Magic* and *Fighting American*, and started their own imprint, Mainline. Kirby followed with *Challengers of the Unknown*, *Green Arrow* and the strip *Sky Masters of the Space Force*. By 1958, he began a prolific output at Atlas/Marvel that covered Western, war and monster genres. When it came time to launch the Marvel Age of Comics, Kirby brought his dynamic layouts, unparalleled action and unbridled creativity to the fore in books like *Fantastic Four*, *Avengers*, *X-Men*, *Incredible Hulk* and *Thor*, leaving his unmistakable stamp on the characters.

Through it all, he earned the nickname "The King," and his way of doing things became so popular that it set the tone throughout the '60s; before they were entrusted with taking over completely, new artists were often assimilated on to books by working over Kirby's layouts. Kirby left Marvel for DC in 1970, this time handling scripting chores as well as art duties. His "Fourth World" books, along with *Kamandi*, *OMAC* and *The Demon*, were just a few of the highlights of his tenure at DC before returning to Marvel in the late '70s to lend his imagination to *The Eternals*, *Devil Dinosaur* and *Machine Man*. He also returned to the pages of *Captain America*, the character he had first made famous 35 years previously.

Kirby was inducted into the Eisner Hall of Fame's 1987 inaugural class and continued creating comics throughout the '90s until passing away in 1994, a creative giant for whom the word "legend" may be too small a title.



*Biography written and researched by John Rhett Thomas*

# JACK KIRBY, THE KING OF COMICS, CREATES AN ALL-NEW PANTHEON OF MARVEL GODS!

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