

SO NATURALLY, BROTHER AND SISTER HAVE PLANNED HEADLINES AFTER IT! "H

OUR ONCESTLY ANSWERS CHALLENGED US TO ENTER THE SECOND? WORLD THAT LIES BELOW -- TO CLAIM BOTH THE SWORD? AND OUR OWN DESTINY!!

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

AS SEEN IN OUR COMPANION VOLUME "REASONABLE?" -- SOLD WITH GAME ONE OF "EMERGENCY!"



*THIS DOES NOT  
MEANS BEING A  
SECOND GARDIAN.*

*TOO, YOU  
MAY THINK I'M  
AHEAD UNDER THE  
CIRCUMSTANCES,  
BUT A CHILL JUST  
RAN DOWN MY  
SPINE...*

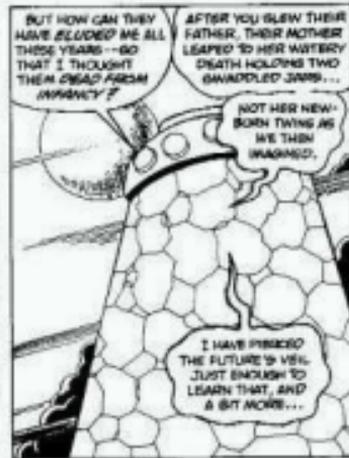
*AND IN HIS CASTLE  
KEEP ME ABOVE,  
THE MEANING  
BEHIND ME... I'M  
SURE...*

*...AS IF,  
SOMEHOW,  
WE WERE BEING  
WATCHED!*

*IT IS A SMILE  
WITHOUT  
MOROSE... A  
SMILE LIKE  
THE BIRTH  
OF DEATH...*

**BOOK TWO**

**FireWorld!**



"... FOR WHEN THEY STEEL NEAR MY TOWER THIS NIGHT, INTENT ON ROBBERING ME, THEIR THOUGHTS OF MISERABLE WIFE STRONG..."

"... SO STRONG THAT THEY NEVER WORTH-LINE IN THE AIR, LONG ENOUGH FOR MY S'PELL TO GATHER AND READ THEM, LIKE SO MANY TEA-LEAVES."

"THEY WERE THINKING OF THEIR MARRIAGE-FATHER'S DEATH AT YOUR HANDS, AND OF THEIR OWN CRUELTY WHEN THEIR FATHER SACRIFICED HIMSELF FOR THEM..."

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

"YOUNG TOWER GROWS STRAIGHT AND TALL, EH?"

"NO TALLER THAN ZORON, HUSBAND."

"THEY'RE TWENTY, AFTER ALL..."

"MAY WE GO OUT AND PLAY NOW, FELICIA?"

"AH, IF ONLY YOU COULD CHIEF!"

"BUT NO ONE DARES WALK ABOARD IN THE SHADOW OF DARKNESS' CASTLE, AFTER THE AYE-WAY-BELL HAS SOUNDED, AND..."

**BONG BONG**

"LISTEN! IT TELLS-- AND ALL MUST OBEY THE CURSEFUL THIS NIGHT AS EVERY NIGHT FOR FIVE YEARS NOW--!"

"AND WE KNOW FULL WELL WHY  
HEROES AND SLAVES ALIKE WERE  
FORCED TO HOLD THEIR HEADS  
DOWN IN DARK FROM DARK TO  
DARK. DO WE SEE, THORNTON?"

"IS POSSIBLE POSSIBLE  
REBELLION AGAINST  
YOUR RULE, YOU WANT  
ME TO LEASH TWO  
SACRED WOLVES  
NEITHER DRINKING EACH  
DAY AS THE SUN DIES  
BURNING IN THE WEST..."

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

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





AND SO, UNKNOWNING, YOU HAVE REVERSED FOR HUNDREDS OF YEARS, THINNING YOURSELF SAFE FROM THE PROPHECY REVEALED TO ME IN A MAGICAL TISSUE...

HOW OFTEN YOU MUST HAVE PASSED CLOSE BY THOSE TWO DIRT-HAIRED BOYS AS THEY GROW UP...





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

"THEY WERE HEAVILY MOURNED BY THE ADORING TRIBE THEIR PSEUDO-PARENTS MET FOR THEM, TILL ONE DAY QUITE APOLOGETICALLY..."

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

"HONK...?"

"... I ASKED IT, MY SISTER... CRIES FROM THE STREET BELOW!"

"IT SOUNDED LIKE..."



LOOK!

"IT--IT CAN'T BE..."

"IF I WERE A COMMON MORTAL, MY KNOW, I MIGHT ALMOST CONFUSIVE WITH THE TWO WIDE-EYED STYLLINGS, AS THEY GAZED OUT THE WINDOW..."



"... TO SEE THOSE THEY HAD CALLED ANOTHER AND GETTING FOR SO LONG, LYING LIFELESS IN THE DUST OF THE WYDEST."

"SEND OVER THEIR BODIES, THE ADORING POINT OF PAINLESS, YOUR CAPTAIN OF GUARDS..."

"... THE MAN WHO HAD PREACHED OVER THE BELIEF OF THEIR TRUE PARENTS SO MANY YEARS BEFORE."

LET THIS BE A LESSON TO ALL YOU PEASANTS!

CLEAR THE WAY WHEN THE ARMY'S CARRIAGES COME RIDING--OR SUFFER THE CONSEQUENCES OF YOUR ROLLY!

"NOW ACCIDENTS AND SPEECHES THEY MUST HAVE BEEN, FOR AN ETERNAL MOMENT..."

"... THEN BE-THEIR MIND THEY SAW, AND DESISTED TO DO..."



"... AND THE SIGNS OF ADMIRATION FROM THEIR KINRED PARENTS TO KEEP HEARD, AND GIVE AN OFFICE TO THE ARMY OF ALL MEN."

"BY SO ENHANCED IN THEM WERE THE HABITS OF COURTESY THAT ANYONE BOY AND GIRL LIFTED A HAND AGAINST ANOTHER AT THAT MOMENT..."

"... BUT AMBLY ENHANCED THE POOR DEAD FIGURES, AS IF HOPING TO BREATHE PRECIOUS LIFE BACK INTO THEM."



"AND SO IT MIGHT HAVE REMAINED, AND BALANCE PRESERVED THE GOOD, BECAUSE TO KEEP HIS OWN MOUTH SHUT."

"OH, FATHER, FATHER..."

"MOTHER..."

"BUT OF COURSE HE DID NOT."

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



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



"...AND I WOULDN'T WANT MY VILLABLE NEW STYRE? TO STUMBLE OVER SUCH PEARANT CARCASS!"

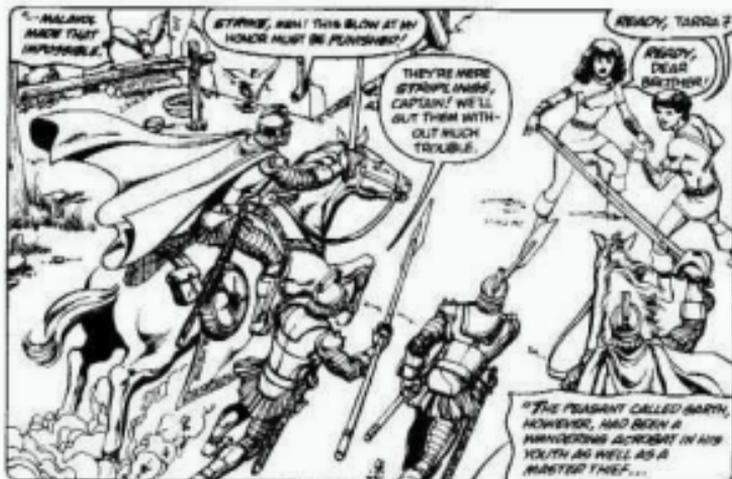




"CONSIDER THE MEN, MY KING! IF NOT FOR THIS PETTY INCIDENT, THE DAMNED THING MIGHT HAVE LIVED ALL THEIR LIVES, WITHOUT SUFFERING A BLOW IN VENGANCE.



IF IT'S DEATH YOU WANT, WHILEM-- THEN DEATH SHALL YOU BOTH HAVE!



"FIGHTERS NOW, THE AMP  
BECOME THIEVES... AND YOUR  
CAMP IS FROM WHOM WE NOW  
SHOULD THEM, MY KING. THEY

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



"AS YOU WISH,  
AENE THYRNEK,  
SPEAK... AND  
THEY SHALL  
INSTANTLY HEAR."

"KEEP MY HONOR, YE  
FOOT-OUT-SPRING OF MY  
MOST FAITHFUL WARRIOR,  
MY MOST BELOVED  
FRIEND, TAKE!"

"SISTER!  
THAT VOICE-- IT  
SEEMS TO COME FROM  
BUSHY WINDS-- YET  
FROM INSIDE MY  
OWN EARS--!"



"I  
HEAR IT,  
TOO."

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

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

"KOLTRUD SAYS  
THAT IF YOU WILLINGLY  
SURRENDER YOUR OWN  
WILLS TO HIS, HE CAN  
DRAW YOU/US/US FROM  
THE IMPEDIC INTO WHICH  
YOU HAVE BARELY HURLED  
YOURSELVES."

"DO SO, I  
PRAY YOU...  
FOR YOUR OWN  
SAVES!"



"TYRANNEK!"

"THE MAN  
WHO SLAY  
OUR TRUE  
FATHER"

"--AND ALCORND  
OUR NOTHING TO  
HER DEATH!"

TOO TRUE, ALAS... BUT A MAN NOW WASTELY CHANGED AND DEPENDANT, AND WILLING TO SHARE HIS THRONE WITH THOSE HE BROADCAST IN HIS YOUNG YOUTH!

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

Y-- YOU EXPECT US TO TRUST YOU!

HEU-- HAD THEY SAY, HURDERED EVEN HIS OWN JESSIE PARTNER!

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

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

THINK, MY DEAR YOUNG FRIENDS-- THINK!

AND BECAUSE THEY ARE ONLY MEN, AFTER ALL, TEEM AND TEND DO UNBORN THINK-- AND THEY AGREEMENT THIS NIGHT'S STRANGE CONSOLE--

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

THEY REMEMBER THE SHOOT-LIKE ADVENTURE WHEN APPEARED AND BARE THEM SURE OUT THE SWORD OF ULTIMATE SORCERY--

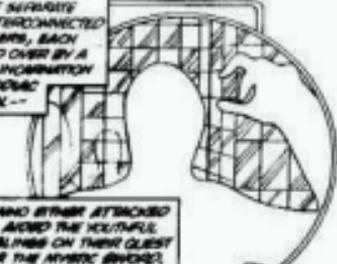
-- DOWN A DARK-MANING PIT WHICH LED DOWN TO THE PLACE CALLED EARTH-WORLD.

IT HAS, THE ARCHER SAID, BUT THE FIRST OF FOUR WORLDS THE YOUNG THINGS MUST FOLLOW IN PURSUIT OF WHATEVER DESTINY IS HELD IN STORE FOR THEM.

YET MAKE A  
WORLD IT  
TURNED OUT  
TO BE!



TWELVE SURVIVORS  
AND INTERCONNECTED  
CHAMBERS, EACH  
LOADED OVER BY A  
LIVING INCARNATION  
OF A ZODIAC  
SYMBOL --



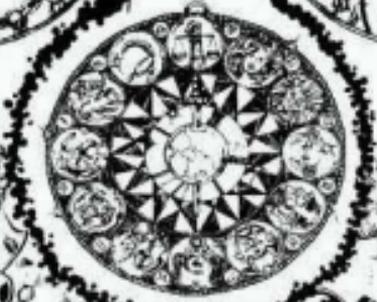
--WHO EITHER ATTACKED  
OR AVOIDED THE YOUTHFUL  
SHILLIES ON THEIR QUEST  
FOR THE MYSTIC BOOKS!



STILL MORE  
AND MORE  
PERFORMED--  
AND ESSENTIALLY  
TRICKED--



--GAINING NOT  
THE BOOKS, BUT  
AT LEAST THE  
ZODIAC DIAL--  
MAN WITH IT--



--A DILIGENT  
SEARCH HAD  
REVEALED, IN  
TEEN, HAD  
TWO ANSWERS  
FOR THIS  
ADVENTURE!



5/11/82

**SUCH ARE TORRIS' AND TORRIS' THOUGHTS AS**

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

**AYE, TYRANNUS... AND WE HEAR IT BACK IN YOUR TEETH!**

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

**FOR ONCE, BROTHER, YOU'RE NO MORE IMPETUOUS THAN I? SO BE!**

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

**--AND EVEN IF YOU FIND IT, IT WILL EVENTUALLY WIND UP IN MY ROYAL HANDS, WHERE IT BELONGS--**

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

**CURSE THOSE INFERNAL MEDDLERS, MURDERER AND MENTSLANDER-- MY FORMER COXWAIN, CRIS!**

**IT HISS, THEY WHO FORGED THAT MAGICAL SWORD--**

**WELORD, LORD...**

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

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

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

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

**AYE, NO LONGER WITHIN EVEN SORCEROUS EARS-- SHOT OF THE LOUDEST OF CACKLING...**

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

**IT'S NO MERE LAND OF FLAME WE ENTER, TORRIS-- BUT OF WIZARDRY AND WINDMILL.**

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





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

KNIVES OF A THOUSAND SPIRITS!

GENTLE IF STEADILY HOT WINDS SEEM TO BRUISE THE SKINLED FLESH TO A FEATHER-SOFT LANDING...



-- IN THE SCARLET WORLD CALLED --

**FIREWORLD!**  
AND NEVER WAS A  
PLACE MORE APTLY  
NAMED!

VOLCANOS --  
BLAZING SANDS --  
RIVERS OF LAVA --  
AS FAR AS THE  
EYE CAN SEE!



WE'LL **PIKE** OUT  
FROM THIS TERRIBLE  
HEAT -- UNLESS WE  
FIND A COOLER  
SPOT, AND  
QUICKLY.

WE'D BETTER TALK THIS  
OVER, AND FIGURE OUT  
WHICH DIRECTION  
WE SHOULD --

NO TIME  
FOR THAT!



THIS WAY LIES AS  
OPEN AS ANY!  
COME ON!

WHAT!  
THAT PATH  
LOOKS EVEN  
WORSE! 'E!

WILL YOU  
QUIT BARKING  
AND FOLLOW  
ME?



I WILL  
NOT!

YOU'RE CONSTANTLY  
ORDERING ME AROUND --  
AND I'M SICK AND TIRED  
OF IT, DO YOU HEAR ME?

I DON'T CLAIM TO  
KNOW WHICH WAY IS  
WARMER, OR COOLER,  
OR WHATEVER --



-- BUT I'M GOING THAT  
WAY, AND YOU CAN DECIDE  
IF YOU WANT TO FOLLOW  
ME FOR A CHANGE!

TO BLAZES  
WITH YOU  
THEN!

I'LL GO  
MY OWN  
WAY!



SOON AFTERWARD, UPON THE LEFTWARD PATH CHIMIN BY THE HEADSTRENGTH TOWER...

SO NOT--AND GETTING HOTTER EVERY MINUTE!

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

WHY DID I GET SO AWAY WITH THIS ANYWAY?

WE SHOULD'VE STUCK TOGETHER, NOT SEPARATED.

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

GOT TO KEEP GOING-- FIND THE SWORD, AND TURN TOWARD, BEFORE--

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

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

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

HAH?? I JUST REMEMBERED --THE ZODIACAL TALENTS THAT WE RECEIVED ALONG WITH OUR BLOODS!

WE ASKED THEM WHEN WE JUMPED AND PERHAPS--

MINOTORS IS EVEN NOW APPEARING TO YOUR WANDERING SISTER--

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



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

THIS IS THAT TIME, SPEAK!

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

THAT IS A WAY YOU MUST FIND FOR YOURSELF, ALAS.

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

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

I SHALL SHOW YOU WHAT YOU ASK, YOUNG.

--YVE, AND SO VERY MUCH MORE--

--IN THE CHANCE OF LIGHT!

IT'S TRULY A THING OF BEAUTY, MENTOR!

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



YOU WILL FIND IT WHEN YOU BECOME THE  
**MIGHTIEST WARRIOR** IN THIS  
WORLD--AND NOT BEFORE.

YET, IF AND WHEN YOU DRINK  
OF THE CHALICE OF LIGHT, NOT ONLY  
SHALL YOU KNOW NO MORE THINGS  
IN THIS FERRY PLACE--

--BUT YOU WILL  
BE DRAWN TO HER  
FLAMES, AND THIS  
WILL CONSUME?



NOW, I MUST DEPART...

HELD IT!  
DON'T GO! I'M  
NOT THROUGH  
WITH--



BLAST! I SHOULD'VE KNOWN  
--NOBODY KEEPS MENIOR  
AROUND WHEN HE DECIDES  
IT'S TIME TO GO.

JUST BEING THAT CHALICE  
GAVE ME STRENGTH--AND NOW.



I'LL FIND IT--AND I'LL  
BECOME THE GREAT  
WARRIOR MENIOR  
SAID I MUST BE--

--FOR THE SAKE OF  
THE ADVISOR  
WE SEEK--AND  
FOR SEARCH!

MEANWHILE, HIS SISTER HAS  
LARGELY COMMUNICATED WITH  
THE FERRINE WORTHY  
INDIVIDUALS, AND NOW--



THIS IS ONE  
TIME I WAS  
JUST AS  
STUPIDLY  
OBVIOUS AS  
TEND.

I LET THE  
STYLING HEAT  
IN THIS PLACE  
WARP MY  
JUDGMENT.



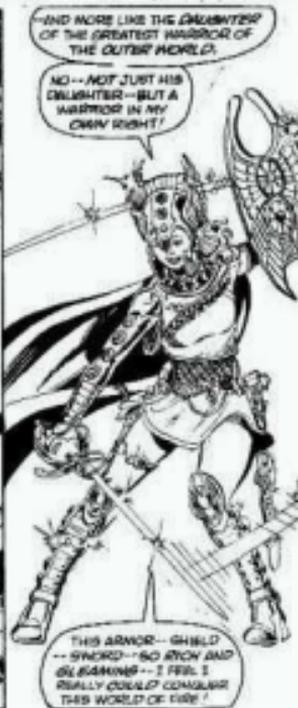
CAN'T DO THAT WAY  
--BUT MAYBE I'LL FIND  
RESPIRE FROM THE HEAT  
IN THIS CAVE.



WHY-WHAT--?

IT'S  
NOT REALLY  
A CAVE  
AT ALL--







NEXT MOMENT, IT SEEMS AS IF TREASURE CHAMBER, PROFOUNDLY-SCATTERED WEALTH, EVE, EVEN FOREWORLD ITSELF, HAVE ALL BUT VANISHED FROM SARON'S REVERED SIGHT--

IT'S ALIVE!!

--AS THE GLITTERING METALLIC STALLION BUCKS AND HEAVES, AS IF TO MOURN ITS HUMAN RIDER TO A FIBRY DEATH, A MILLION MILES BELOW AND AWAY!

AND SARON AVENGS ON-- FOR LIFE, FOR VENGEANCE--

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



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

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

--AND I'VE FOUND  
A WEIRDUNG ALTR  
INSTRAD!

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

BUT I CAN'T  
IMAGINE ANOOR  
ALTR IT COULD BE  
IN THIS DEVILISH  
PLACE...





...FOR I'VE CERTAINLY BEEN AND ONE ABOUT!



LIKE HIS SISTER BEFORE HIM, TERRY FINDS ARMOR SWIFTER TO EQUIP A SMALL ARMY...

A KING'S ARMOR WORTH OF SHIELDS AND SHOULDER AND BREASTPLATES--AND ALL OF FINE-CARVED SILVER!

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

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



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

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



THE BOWS AND ARROWS I CAN DO WITHOUT-- THEY'RE THE WEAPONS OF COMRADES AND REGAL ARMS, BUT--



MARY-?





THE FIRE-GORLINS CITY IS CUT OFF IN MID-SWIFT, HOWEVER, AS NO TOWN'S GREAT SHOCK--THE ICE-ARROW STRUCK HOME--

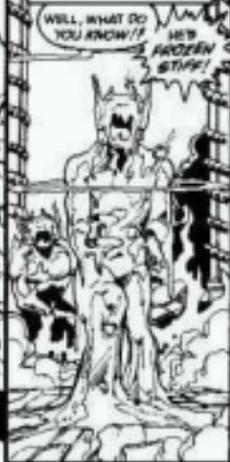
AND HIGH CLOUDS OF STEAM AND SMOKE ARE BURNING AWAY--

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

WELL, WHAT DO YOU KNOW!!

HE'S FROZEN STIFF!

THE SNOW-SHOES ON THE OTHER FOOT NOW, HA! IT'S



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

I DIDN'T CARE MUCH FOR ICING YOU DOWN, OLD BUDDY, BUT YOU OUGHT TO BE MORE READY-ABLE TO STRANDERS--

I WILL SAY THAT, THOUGH--

--EVEN WHEN YOUR MOUTH'S AS DRY AS THE DRETTIT, FICEDY--STILL TARTING AWAY??

YOU'LL PROBABLY WALK BACK TO ACHREE IN A LITTLE WHILE--

BUT I WON'T BE HERE TO SEE IT.





BEHIND ME, A MOUNTAIN  
 RISES WITH AROUND TO  
 MOUNTAIN HORN GOLDEN  
 TREMBLES WITH AROUND  
 A BELLOWING UNICORN  
 WITH AROUND LIKE FIRE ...

WELL, AT LEAST IT'S STOPPED  
 TRYING TO THROW ME INTO THE LAKE,  
 THANK HEAVEN FOR SMALL FAVORS!  
 IT EVEN RESPONDS TO MY COM-  
 MANDS ALREADY, AND--

AGH!!  
 WHAT'S THAT?!



IS IT JUST THAT  
 OVERWHELMING  
 AGH GETTING TO  
 ME-- BEING ME  
 INSIDE THIS  
 AROUND--

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

OYE, THAT IT IS--  
 UNLESS THE NIGHT'S  
 DRIVEN ME AWAY!!

A AROUND-LIKE LAD, TOO-- FULL OF  
 MANLY AROUND-- A STRANGE SORT  
 OF AROUND ABOUT HIS  
 FEATURES, SOMEHOW.

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

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

...BUT I CAN'T  
 REPORT AROUND  
 HIM.

OH! HE'S  
 AROUND UP?  
 I HOPE HE  
 WON'T MIND  
 THAT I--

MINDS  
 LADS?!

BEHIND?  
 WHY-- I  
 WANT TO  
 KISS HIM!

HEY, WHY SHOULD I MIND--

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

BY THE GODS!

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

--IF HE WAS EVER TRULY HUMAN AT ALL!

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

HELD! WHAT'S THAT MOVEMENT OVER THERE-- NEAR MY NOSE??

I HOPE YOU WON'T OBJECT TO MY NOW-PROVING YOUR HORNS ARE BIRD, DEAR CHILD.

SOMEHOW, YOU DON'T LOOK AS IF YOU'LL BE ABLE TO SEE HIM AGAIN.

HERMINUS!

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

BUT I SEEK THE AVENGE OF LETO'S SORROW; TOO, YOU KNOW!

THEN, THE MASTER TRICK IS DONE--

--AND ERINDE HAS HER HOME PROBLEMS CONCERN!

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

SEEK!



APPARENTLY NOT!

SKRAK  
SKRAK



THE OCTOPOD'S STRENGTH!  
MY OWN'S LIKE A CHILD'S  
BEHIND IT!

IT'S DRAWING  
ME FORWARD  
IT-- INTO ITS  
GAPING  
MOUTH!



MY SHIELD--  
IT'S MY ONLY  
CHANCE!



YAAARG

I--I  
DID  
IT!

IT'S HUGE TEETH  
CRACKED THE SHIELD--  
SHATTERED IT--  
BUT THE JAWED EGGS  
ARE ADAPTING ITS  
SOFT INSIDES!



IT'S SCUTTLEING BACK  
INTO THE ROCKY LAIR  
WHERE IT MUST LIVE!

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



THE MONSTER MUST HAVE REED  
MY MIND SOMEHOW-- USED AN  
IMAGE OF MYSELF REALLY  
BURIED THERE-- TO LURE ME

WELL, I  
SURVIVED ITS  
ATTACK-- JUST  
BARELY!

... BUT I LOST  
MY SWORD--  
MY WEAPONS--  
EVERYTHING!



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

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

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





By--?

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

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

DO YOU ALWAYS TALK TO YOURSELF THIS WAY, BOY?



YOU!?



WATER!

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

YOU TRIED TO GET MY SISTER AND ME KILLED-- BACK IN EARTHMOUL!

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

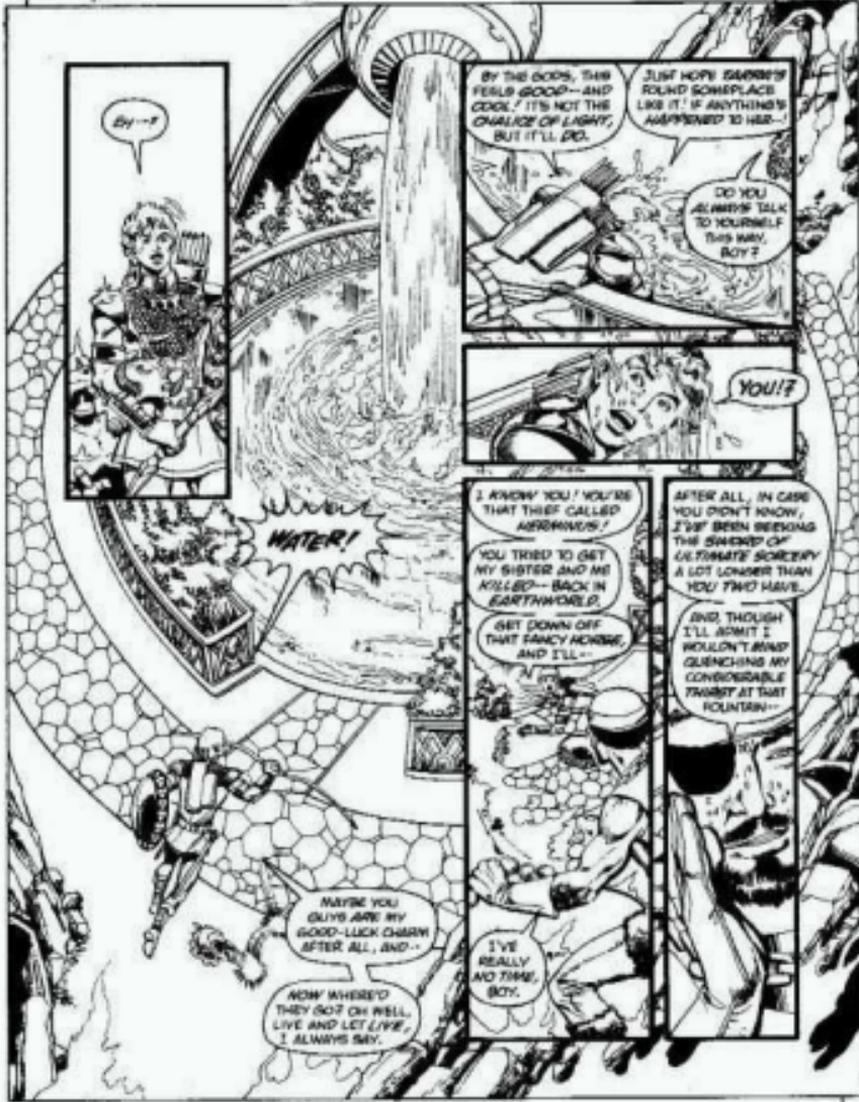
AFTER ALL, IN CASE YOU DIDN'T KNOW, I'VE BEEN SEEKING THE SWINDER OF ULTIMATE SCREARY A LOT LONGER THAN YOU TWO HAVE.

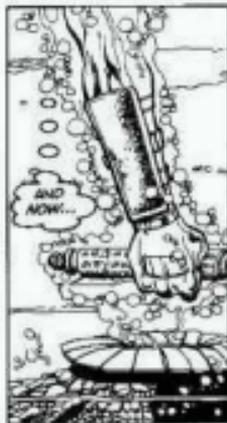
AND THOUGH I'LL ADMIT I WOULDN'T BOND GUENCHING MY CONSIDERABLE THIRST AT THAT FOUNTAIN--

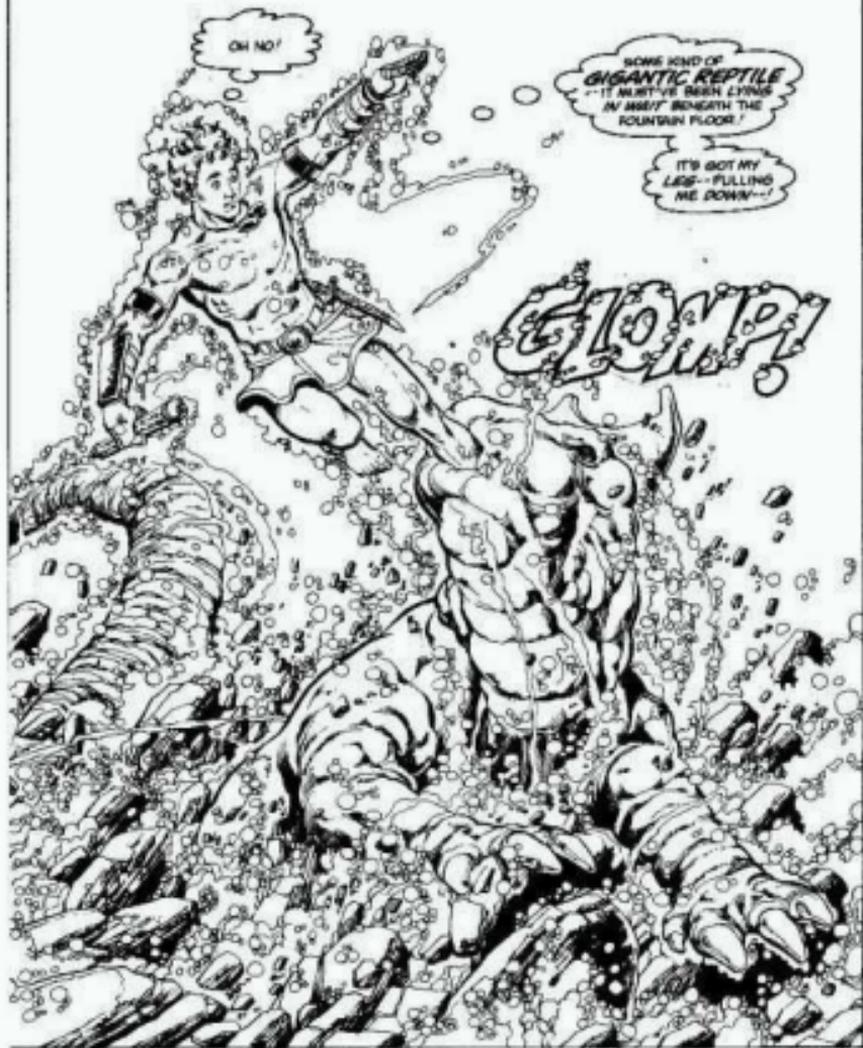
MAYBE YOU GLYS ARE MY GOOD-LUCK CHARM AFTER ALL, AND--

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

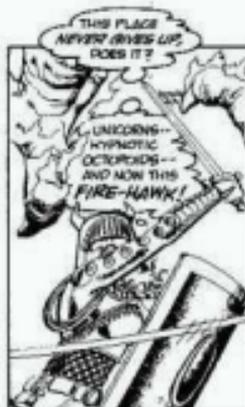
I'VE REALLY NO TIME, BOY.













--UNLESS I TAKE THE SKULL BY THE HORN--

OR, IN THIS CASE, THE BIRD BY THE NOSE--



--AND SEE IF THIS FEATHERED FIRE-BALL WILL OBEY A HOPPER AS READILY AS THE LINDORNY DID.



WELL, WHAT DO YOU KNOW? IT DOES!

MAYBE I AM ON MY WAY TO BECOMING THE WARRIOR WENTARRA TALKED ABOUT, AFTER ALL!

EVERY THING IS FROM UP HERE, AFTER ALL I CAN CATCH A GLIMPSE OF JORM, IF HE'S--



HUNT THOSE WEIRD LITTLE CRYSTALBIRDS BELOW--GENTLING FRANTICALLY AT ME, AS IF THEY'RE TRYING TO FEEL ME SOMETHING!

BETTER TAKE A LOOK OVER WHERE THEY'RE--

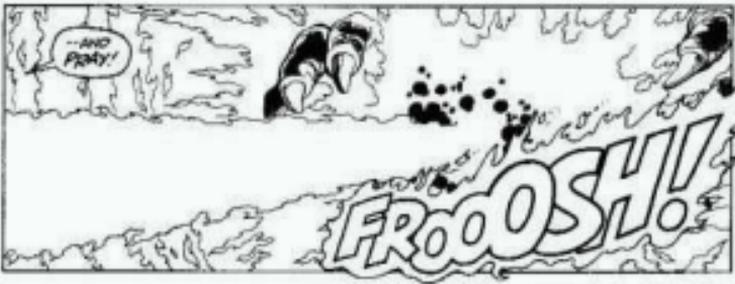


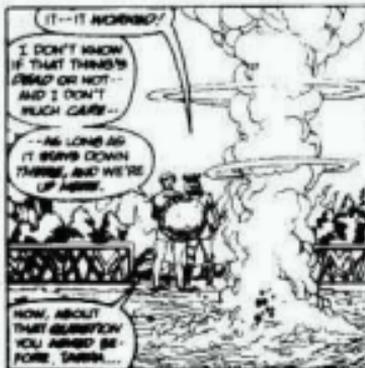
BY DAMNSIDE'S HELL--IT'S JORM!

AND IT LOOKS AS IF HE'S IN DEEP TROUBLE!

MY BLAZING BARRAGE WON'T BE ABLE TO FOLLOW WHEN HE AND THAT THING GO UNDERWATER AGAIN--







WE CAN'T HAVE COME SO FAR, GOTTEN SO CLOSE-- ONLY TO FAIL --  
--CAN WE?



YOU DON'T LET ME FINISH BEFORE, TORR-- TELLING YOU ABOUT MY UNDERSTANDINGS OF FIREWORLD.

I MASTERED THE FIRE-  
MANN BECAUSE I'D SEEN THE  
OCCURENS. DON'T YOU SEE?

CONQUER ONE  
ASPECT OF THIS  
WORLD--AND YOU  
CONQUER IT ALL!

I'D HAVE STOOD  
UP TO THAT ONE-  
GON, TOO-- IF I  
HADN'T ARRIVED!

BUT WHAT'S THAT GOT TO DO WITH--  
TARRA? / HELP?



AND THE FLAMES  
CAN'T HURT ME-- IF  
I DON'T BELIEVE  
THEY CAN!

FOLLOW ME,  
TORR-- HURRY!

IT-- IT'S NO GOOD, TARRA! THAT WAY  
WOULDN'T WORK FOR ME!



HAVE I FORGOT  
ABOUT-- THE ARROW-  
POINT? MAYBE-- THE  
ANCIENT MIRROR  
WRITTEN ON IT--

BUT-- CAN  
I READ IT??

TORR'S RIGHT! HE  
COULDN'T HAVE COME  
WITH ME.



HE'D HAVE  
BEEN BURNED--  
EVEN IF I'M  
NOT.

MUST GO ON--END  
OUT WHAT'S AT THE  
END OF OUR JOURNEY!



THEN I'LL  
GO BACK FOR  
TORR, AND--



HOLD ON,  
TORR! I'M  
COMING!

THAT PIERCEMENT TOLD  
ME THE PATHWAY  
THROUGH THE FLAMES!

SOMEHOW, THE  
WATER I SWALLOWED  
BACK AT THAT WEIRD  
ACQUA'DRY GAVE ME  
THE WISDOM TO--

RUUU??

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

THE  
CHALICE OF  
LIGHT!

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

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

--AND BECOME  
THE MENTORS  
OUR MENTORS  
TOLE US WE  
COULD BE!





THEN I'M BITTING--IT AIN'T THE REAL CHALICE OF LIGHT AT ALL!



OH, BUT YOU ARE A PRESUMPTIVE WENCH, AREN'T YOU?

IT'S HERMINIUS!

AHE, LAD AND LASS-- HERMINIUS, AND DRINKING A JOLLY JOGGY TO THE BOTH OF YOU!

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



--I'M TOO THIRSTY-- LOANED? EVEN TO REIN FROM YOU!







JEOP! NOW I UNDERSTAND! WE'RE INSIDE THE CHALICE!

THE CHALICE ITSELF—WAS THE GATEWAY TO THE THIRD WORLD!

BUT THE SIDES OF THE CHALICE—THEY'RE ROCKS!--AND THERE'S NO LAND ANYWHERE IN SIGHT!

WHERE AS THIS THIRD WORLD--WITH IT'S CROWN, AND THE SWORD OF ULTIMATE SOBERITY?

WHERE??



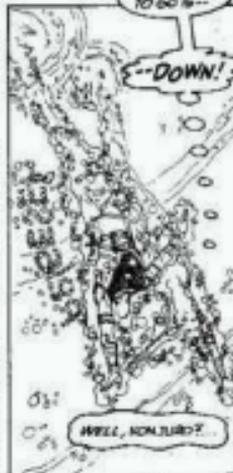
DON'T YOU SEE, BROTHER? IF THE FIRST WORLD WAS INSIDE THE BARDIN--AND THE SECOND WAS RINGED IN FIRE--

OF COURSE! A WORLD FOR EACH OF THE PRIMAL ELEMENTS!

--THEN THIS WORLD IS ALL WATER!

AND IF WE CAN'T GO BACK UP--OR EVEN DOWNWARDS--

RIGHT! THEN THE ONLY WAY TO GO IS--



--DOWN!

WELL, NON-SENSE?



YOU TOLD ME THOSE WHEELS WOULD PUNISH MY FUR-HEADS!-- BUT YOU WERE WRONG! THEY LIVE!

NOT FOR LONG, WILORD KING. MY WARS WILL FOLLOW THEM THROUGH ALL FOUR WORLDS, IF NEED BE--

--TILL THEY MENACE OUR CAUSE NO MORE!

I ASSURE YOU, THE GOLD-TIPPED YOUNG THIEVES NAMED TOOR AND LORON SHALL FIND THEIR FINAL DOOM IN

**WATERWORLD!**

IN **SWORDBREAKER'S BOOK 3** AVAILABLE SOON!

DID YOU MISS **EARTHWORLD**? HUSTLE DOWN TODAY TO YOUR FAVORITE ATARI CARTRIDGE DEALER AND GET **SWORDBREAKER'S BOOK 1: EARTHWORLD**.