



# Swordquest

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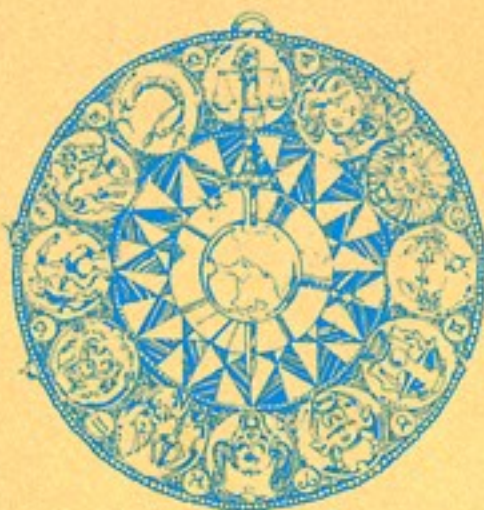
TM





# EARTHWORLD™

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



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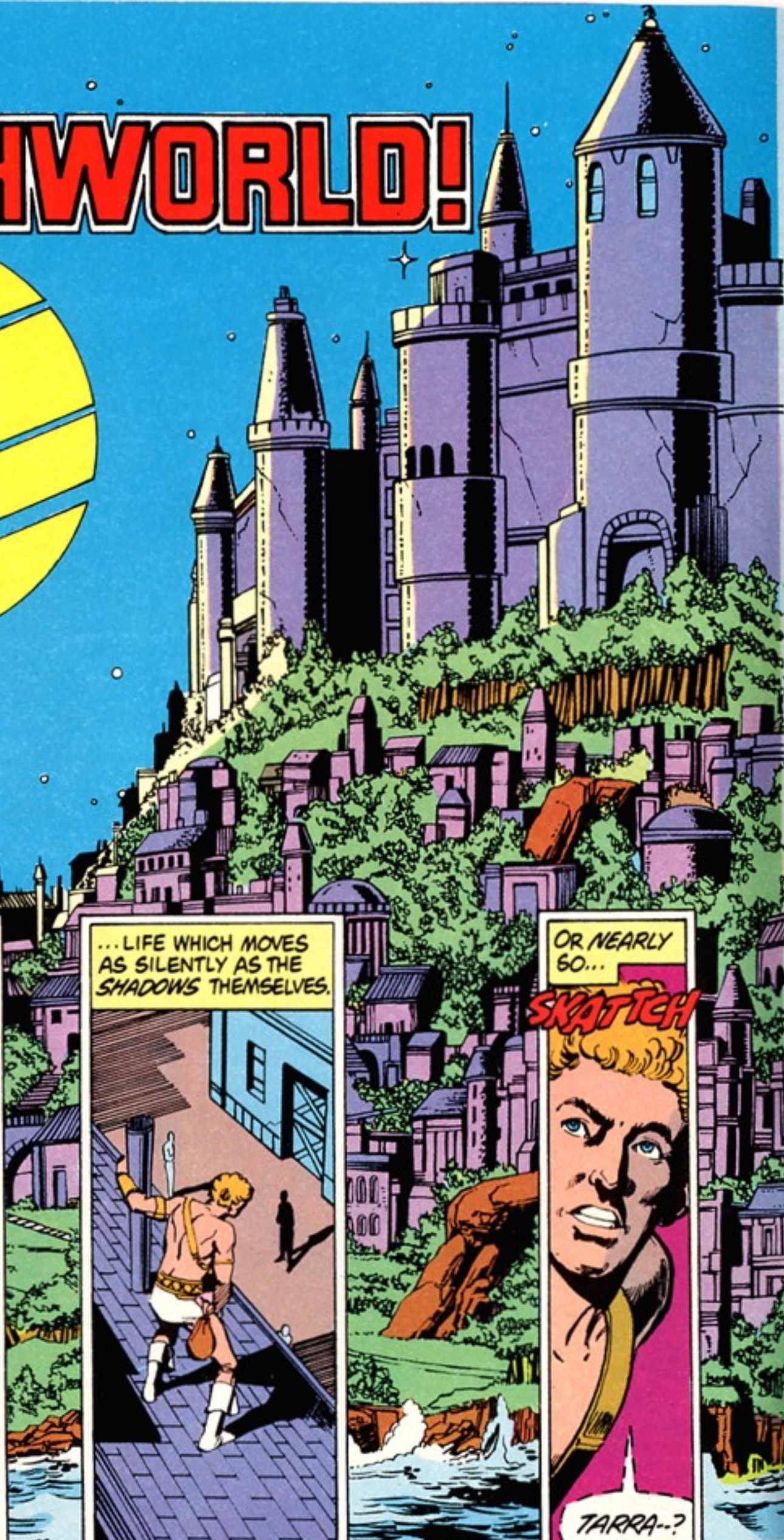
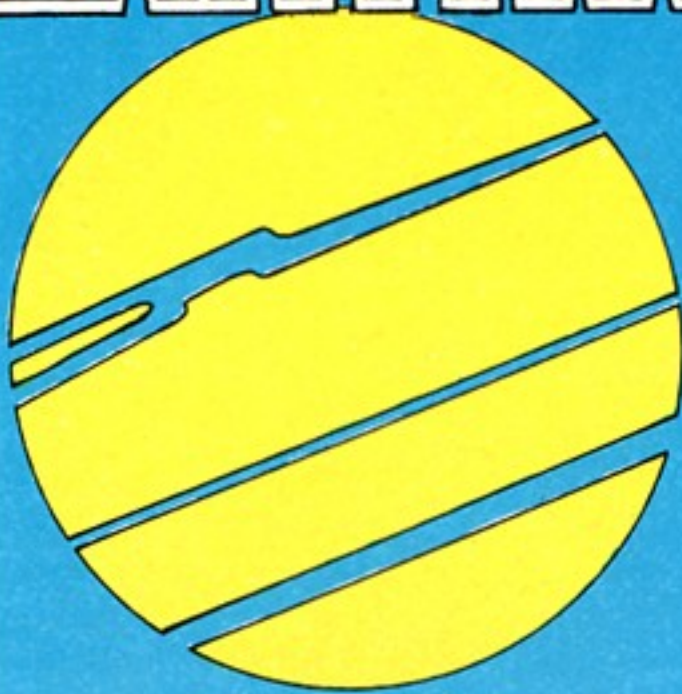
*The ultimate  
Search for  
the ultimate  
treasure!*





BOOK ONE

# EARTH WORLD!



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

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

OR NEARLY  
60...

**SKATTECH**

TARRA--?





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

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

WHO ELSE, DEAR BROTHER?

I FOLLOWED YOU AFTER YOU SLIPPED OUT OF OUR ROOM.

I SHOULD HAVE GUESSED YOU'D COME HERE.

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

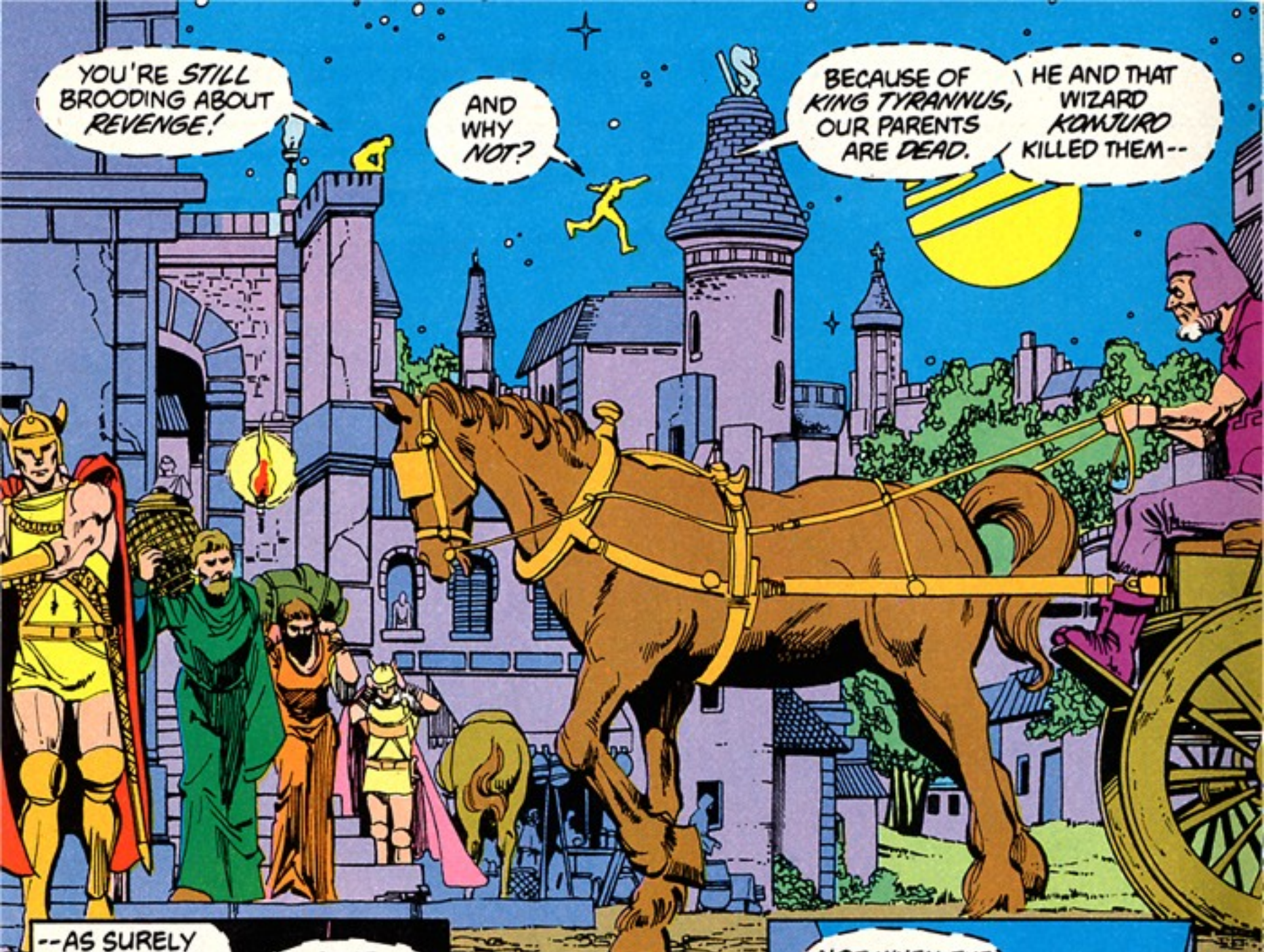


YOU'RE STILL  
BROODING ABOUT  
REVENGE!

AND  
WHY  
NOT?

BECAUSE OF  
KING TYRANNUS,  
OUR PARENTS  
ARE DEAD.

HE AND THAT  
WIZARD  
KONJURO  
KILLED THEM--



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

GOOD  
THIEVES DON'T  
BEAR GRUDGES,  
TORR!

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

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



NOR DO  
THEY LEAP  
WHEN THEY  
CAN WALK!

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

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



KONJURO?

YOU ARE  
MAD!



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

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

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

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

TWO SONS, MY LADY?

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

BETTER THAN THAT, MY LORD.

SO THEY ARE.

WHAT SHALL WE NAME THEM, WIFE?

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

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







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

HIS WORDS:

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

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

WHAT  
WOULD YOU  
CALL THIS,  
TARR--

--IF NOT  
TREACHERY  
MOST FOUL!

YOUR MAJESTY  
CANNOT BE  
SERIOUS!

SUCH PROPHECY  
IS MADNESS!


WHO  
SPEAKS  
THUS?

LET HIM  
SHOW HIMSELF,  
IF HE DARE!









DEATH TO  
...TYRANNUS!

DEATH TO  
THE KING!

HE  
ALMOST  
REACHED  
THE  
THRONE.

ALMOST,  
BUT NOT  
QUITE!

RUN,  
WYLA!

FOR THE  
LOVE OF OUR  
CHILDREN--

--RUN!"







WAS THERE *EVER*  
SUCH A BATTLE AS  
THIS?

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



WIZARD, DO  
SOMETHING!

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

IF HE  
GETS  
PAST  
THEM--

HE  
SHALL  
NOT.

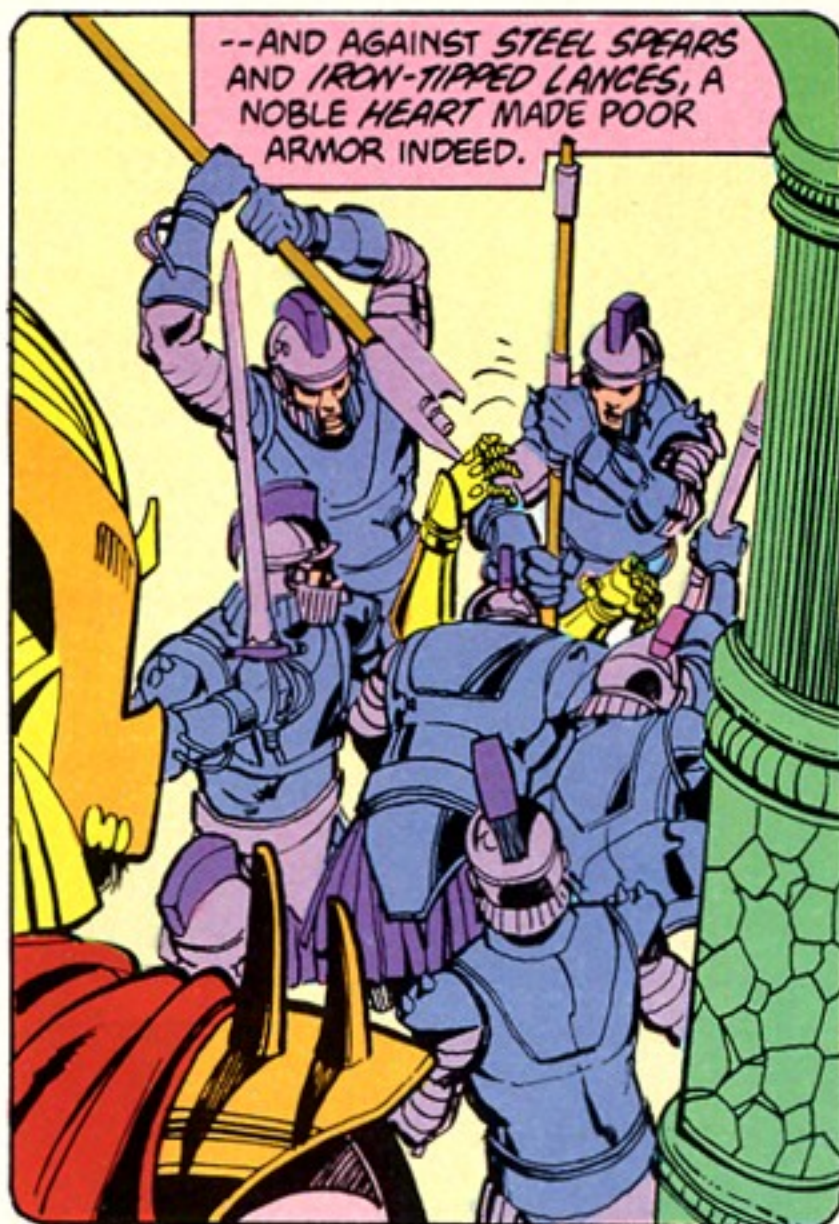
MUTTERED WORDS IN A  
TONGUE ALIEN TO THE  
MOUTH OF MAN...

KATHU  
MORUS  
MAHKTO!



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





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



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

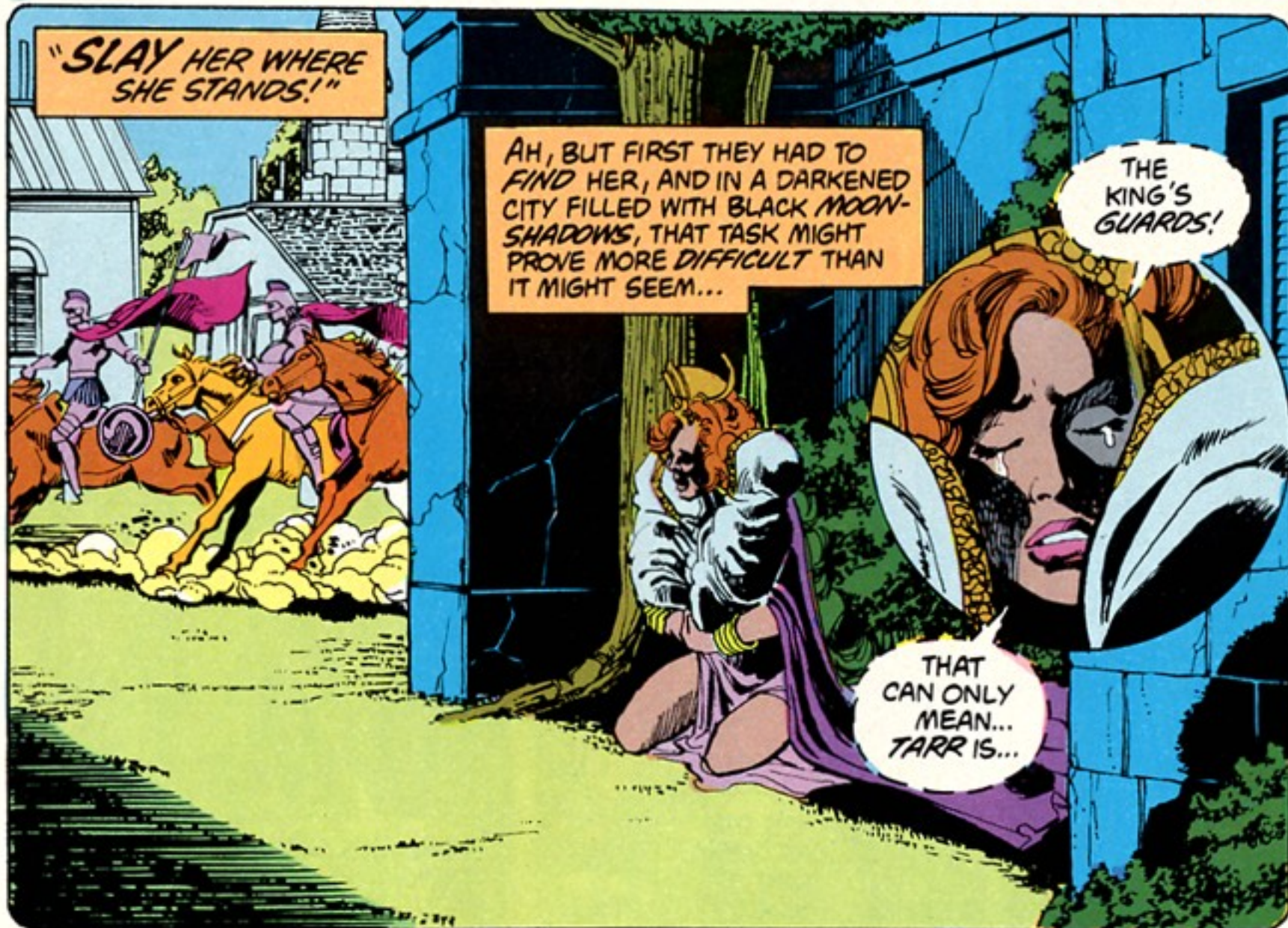


A TEMPORARY CONDITION, AT WORST. YOU MEN--

FIND THE MOTHER AND BRING THE CHILDREN TO ME.

AND THE MOTHER--?

WHAT DO YOU THINK, FOOL?



"SLAY HER WHERE SHE STANDS!"

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

THE KING'S GUARDS!

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



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

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



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

ARE YOU FAITHFUL STILL?

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

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

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

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

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

MILORD TARR KILLED?

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

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



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

YES...

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

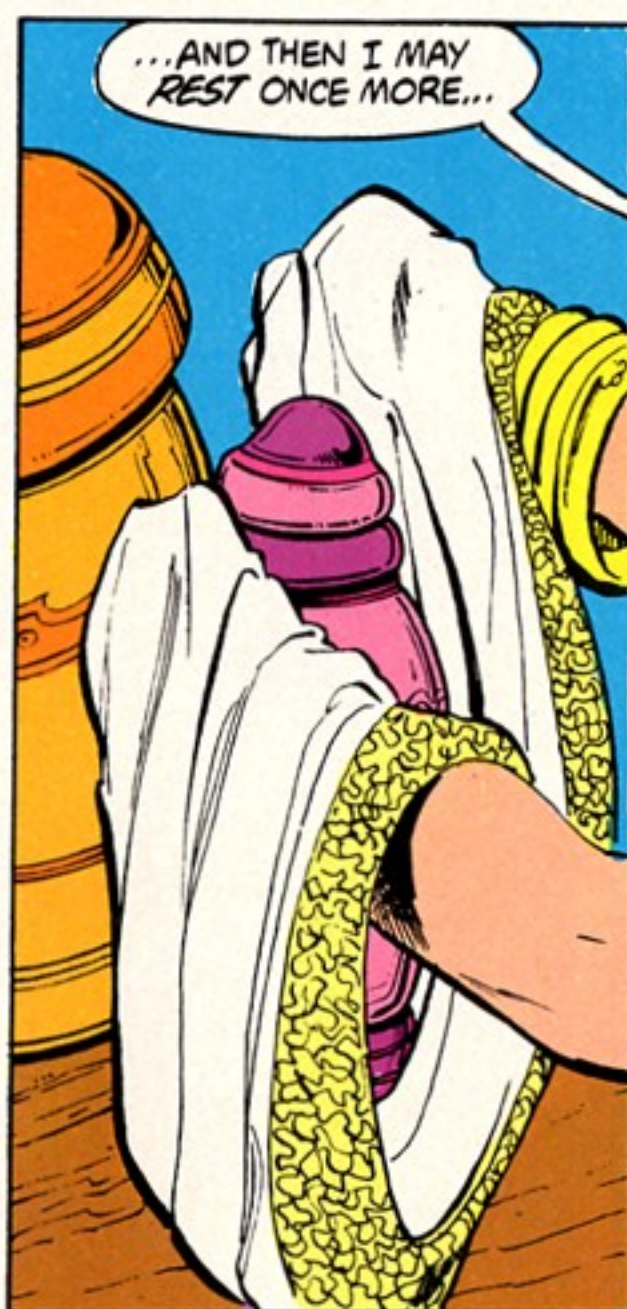
BUT IN YOUR HOUSE, RAISED AS YOUR SON AND DAUGHTER...

AYE, IT'S WORTH A TRY.



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











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

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



NOW  
MEMORY  
FADES...

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



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

PSST, TORR!

CAN YOU  
SEE  
ANYTHING?



BRACE  
YOURSELF,  
SISTER...

...IT'S A TREASURE  
HOUSE!

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

WE'RE  
RICH!



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









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

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



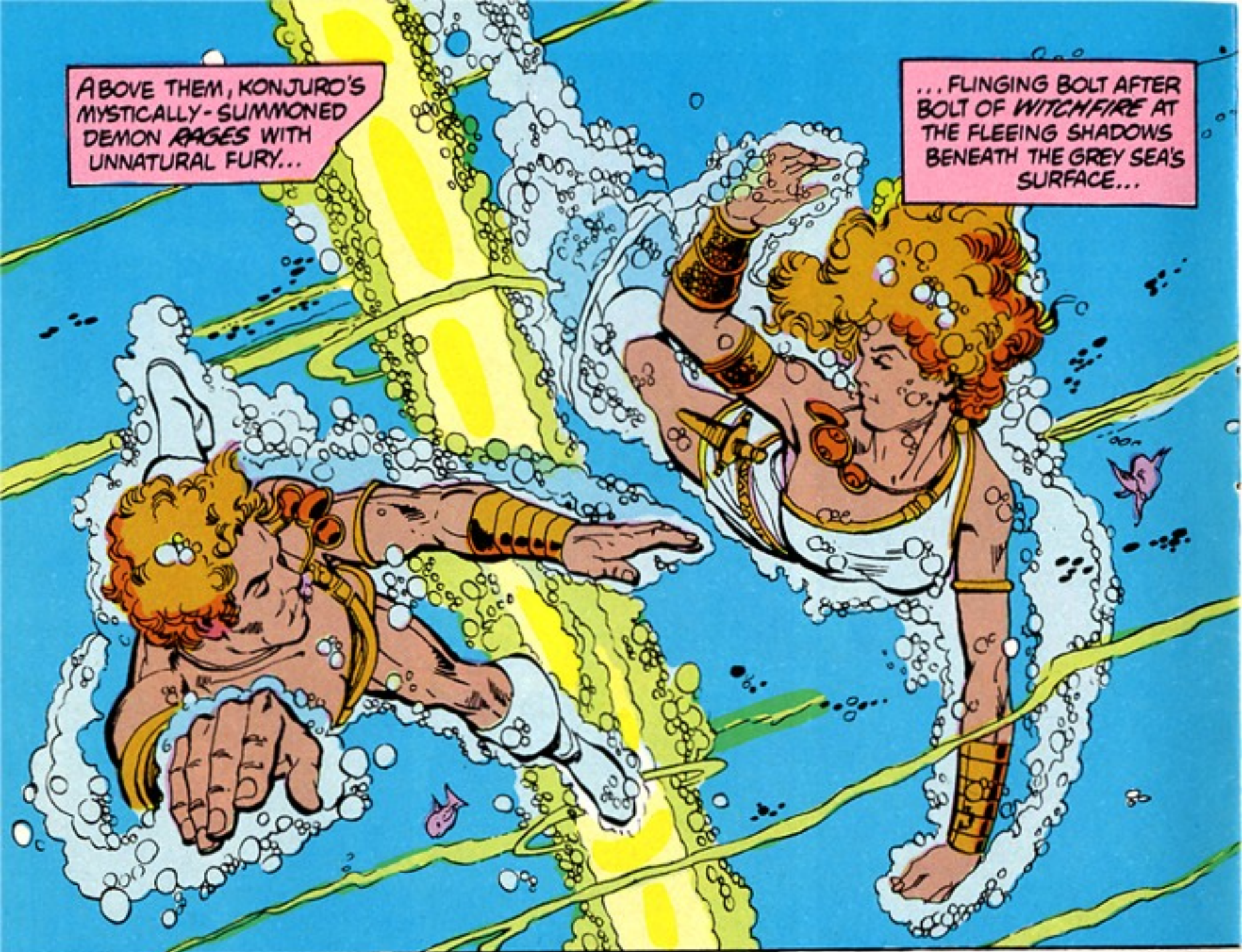
...AND TORR NO LONGER QUESTIONS THE WISDOM OF FLIGHT!





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

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



BUT, THE TROUBLE  
WITH CHASING  
SHADOWS--



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



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

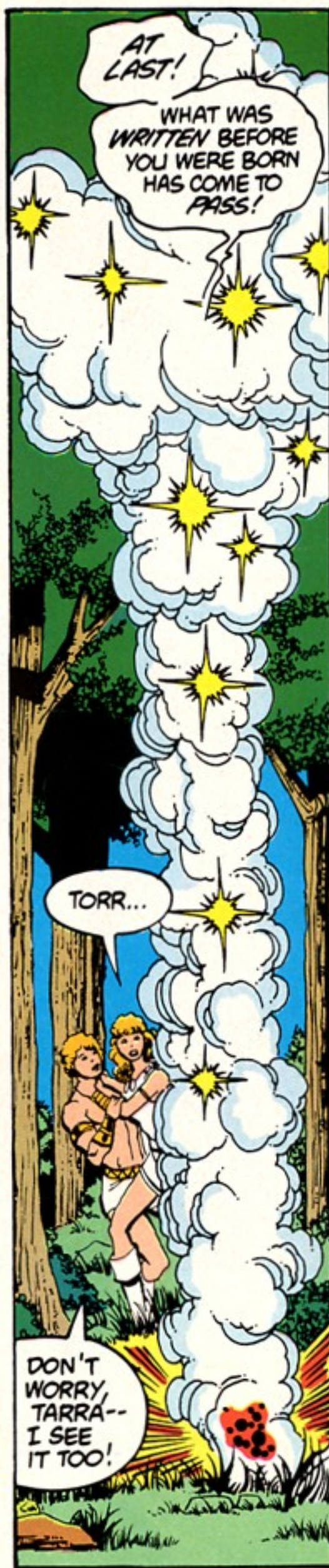
ARE YOU  
ALL  
RIGHT?

I'LL  
LIVE.

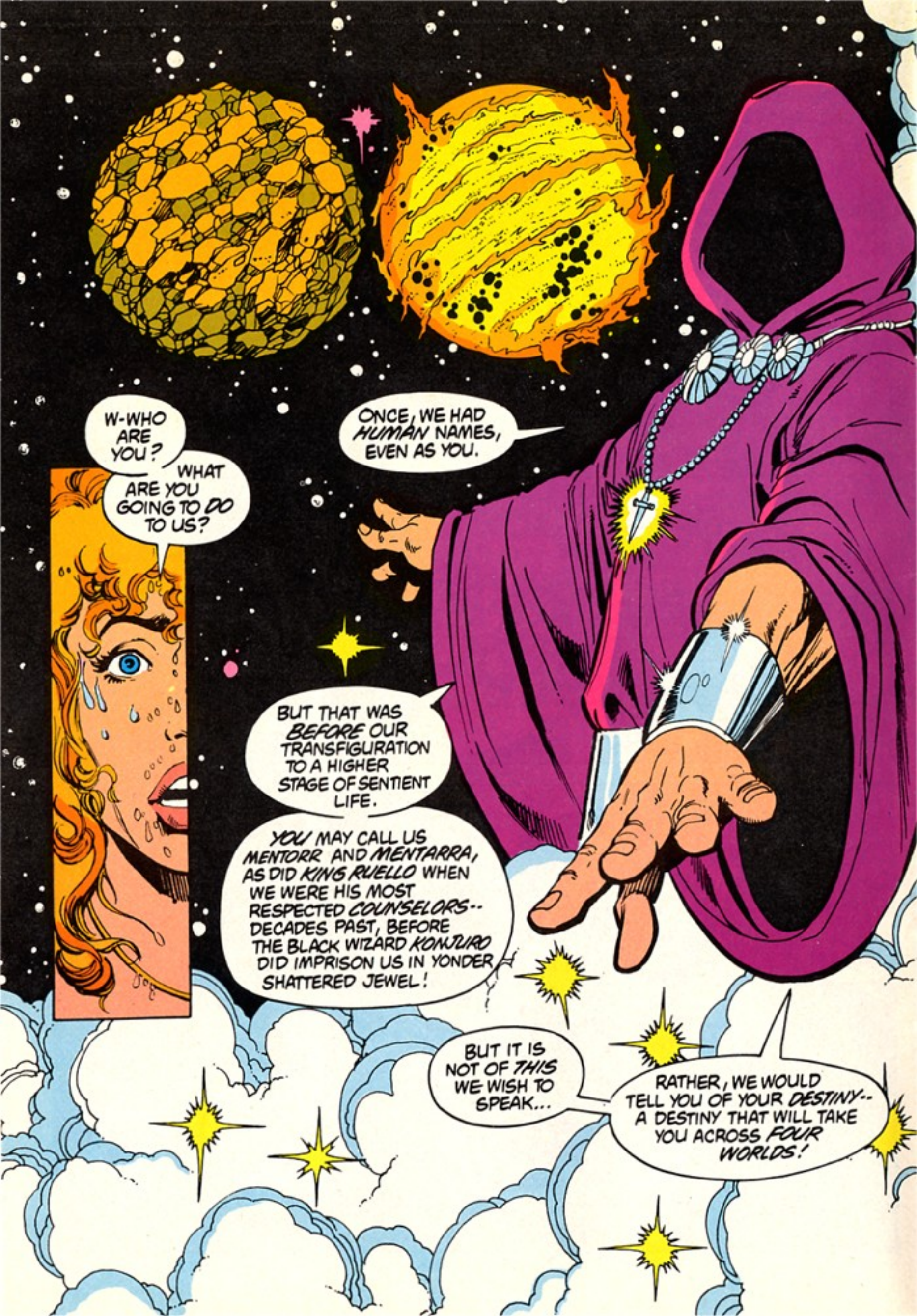
KONJURO'S  
DEMON--?











W-WHO  
ARE  
YOU?

WHAT  
ARE YOU  
GOING TO DO  
TO US?

ONCE, WE HAD  
HUMAN NAMES,  
EVEN AS YOU.

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

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

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

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





**REVENGE!**

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

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

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

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

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



THESE  
ARE YOUR  
WORDS,  
NOT OURS.

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

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

YOU MUST PUT  
ASIDE YOUR ANGER  
AND YOUR HATE.

YOU MUST LEARN  
TO THINK BEFORE  
ACTING.

YOU MUST LEARN  
TO JUDGE BEFORE  
RESPONDING.

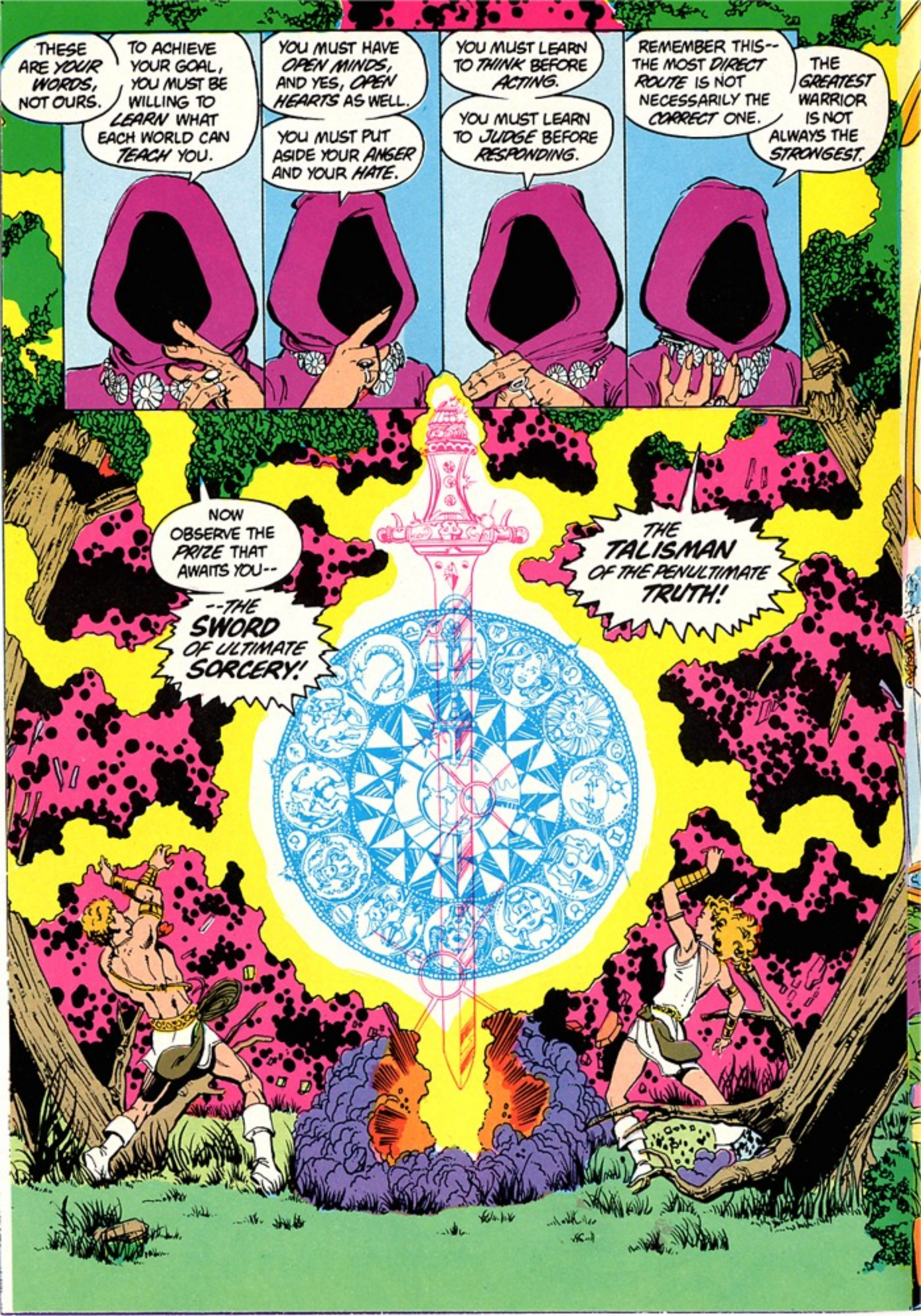
REMEMBER THIS--  
THE MOST DIRECT  
ROUTE IS NOT  
NECESSARILY THE  
CORRECT ONE.

THE  
GREATEST  
WARRIOR  
IS NOT  
ALWAYS THE  
STRONGEST.

NOW  
OBSERVE THE  
PRIZE THAT  
AWAITS YOU--

--THE  
SWORD  
OF ULTIMATE  
SORCERY!

THE  
TALISMAN  
OF THE PENULTIMATE  
TRUTH!









WELL, FOR  
ONE THING--  
THAT!

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

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

FINDING  
IT IS JUST A  
PROCESS OF  
ELIMINATION!

CHILD'S  
PLAY!

THINK YOU SO,  
YELLOW-HAIRED  
WHELP?

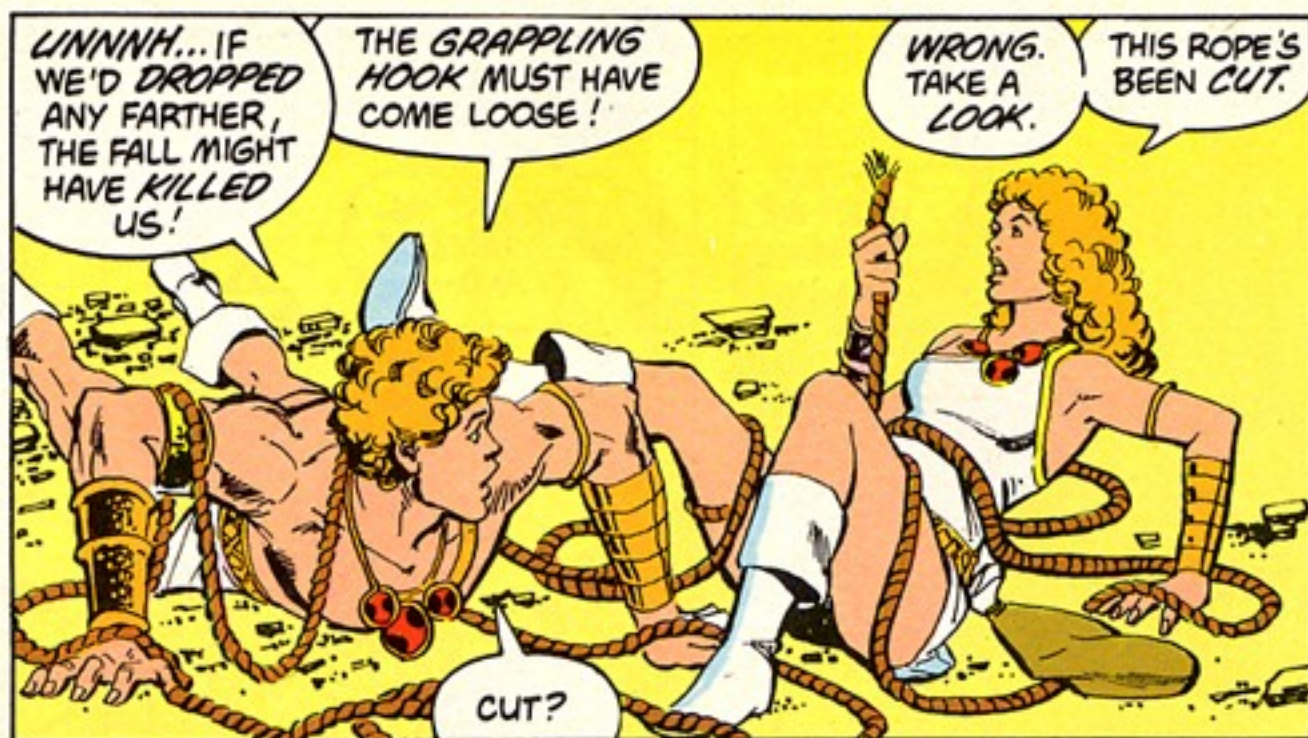
HERMINUS THE  
THIEF HAS BEEN  
TRYING TO FIND THAT  
SWORD FOR ALMOST  
TWELVE MOONS!

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

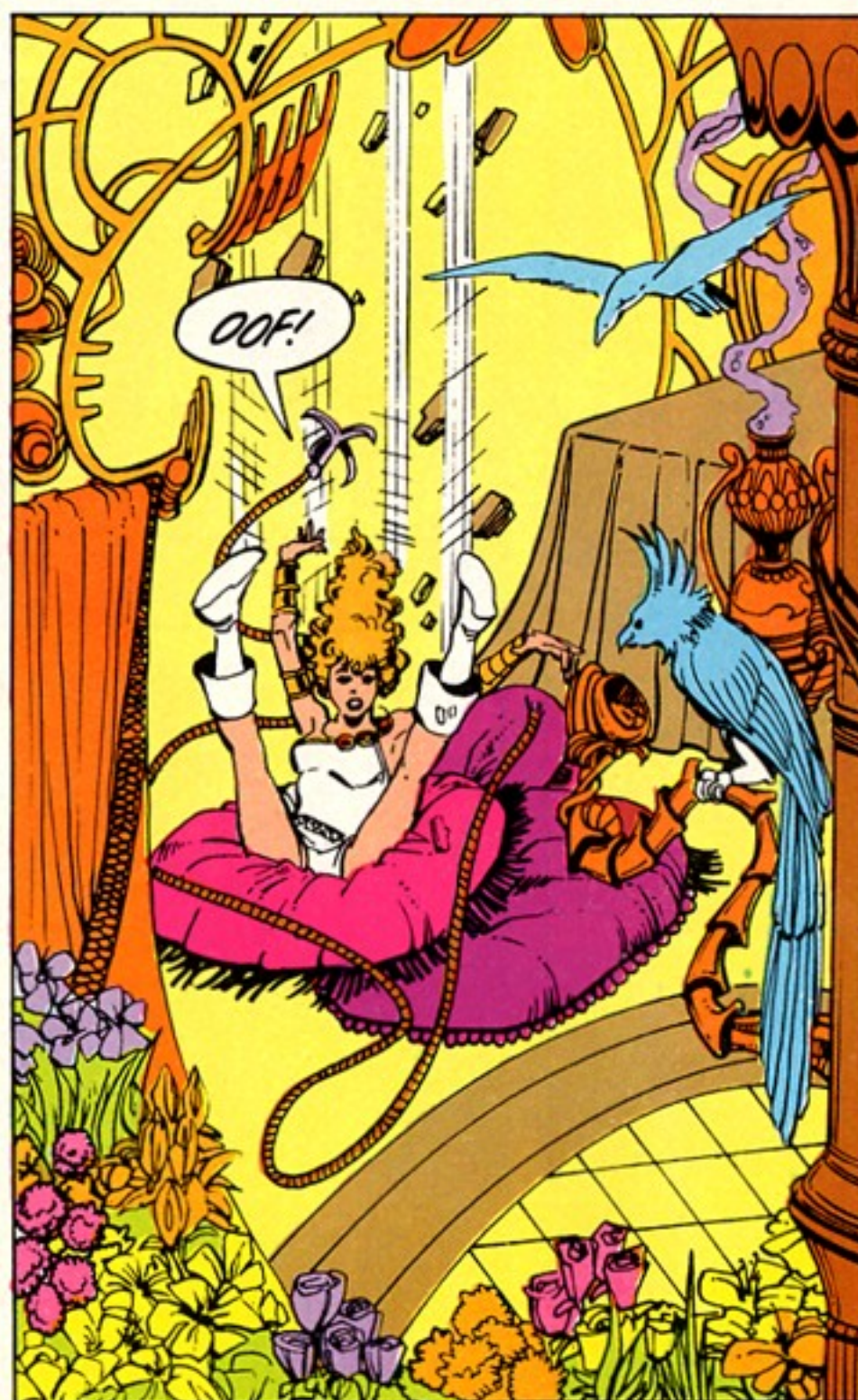
EVEN SUCH  
A PAIR OF FOOLS  
AS YOU!

SNIK!











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

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

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

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

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





ELSEWHERE...

I'VE CIRCLED  
THIS HUGE DOME  
TWICE--

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



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

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



THERE!  
I'M IN!

NOW TO--

THUMP

THE CREVICE  
--IT SLAMMED  
SHUT BEHIND  
ME!



OF  
COURSE,  
BOY!

I GET SO  
**FEW**  
VISITORS--

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

WHO ARE  
YOU-- WHAT  
ARE YOU?





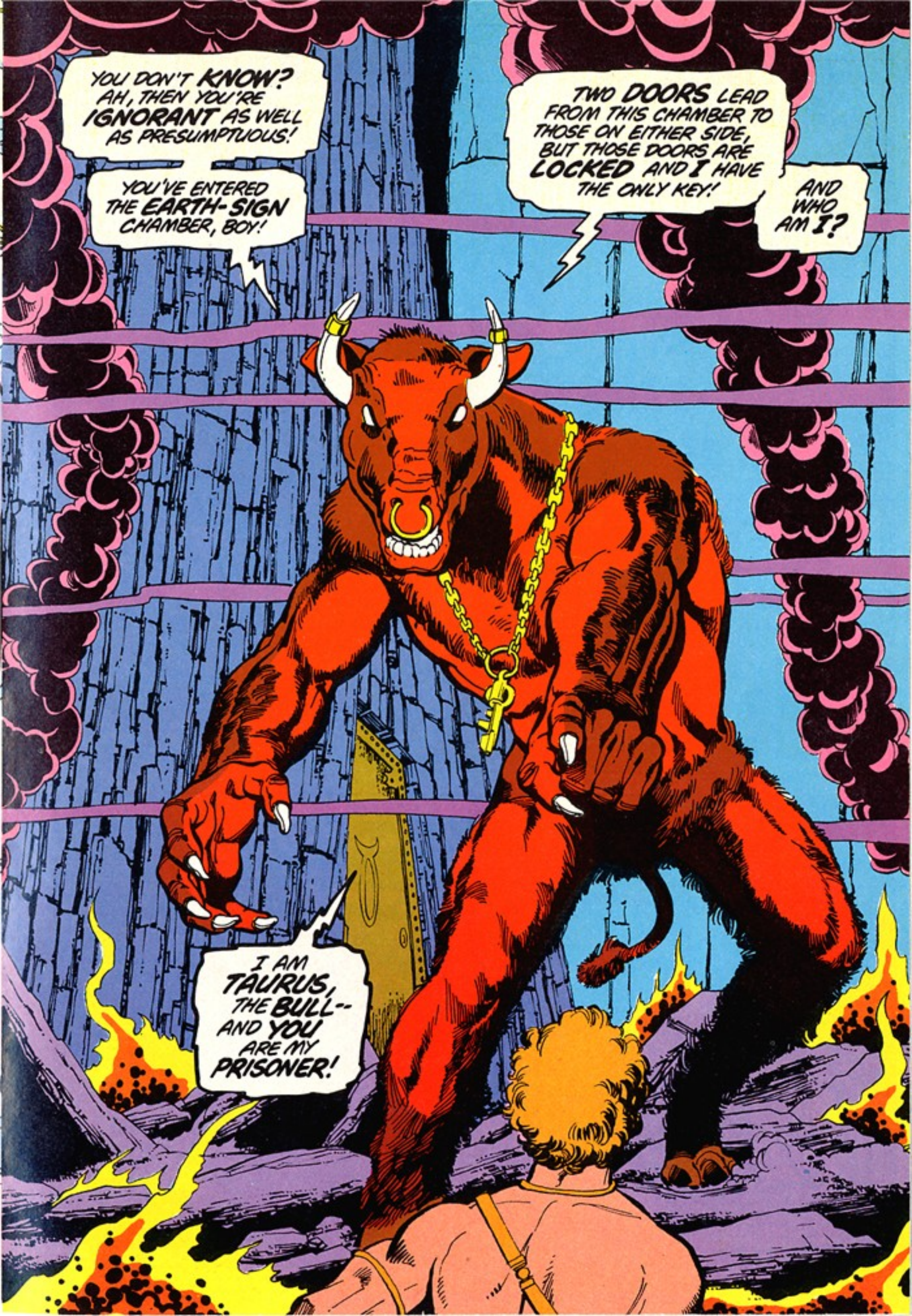
YOU DON'T **KNOW**?  
AH, THEN YOU'RE  
**IGNORANT** AS WELL  
AS PRESUMPTUOUS!

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

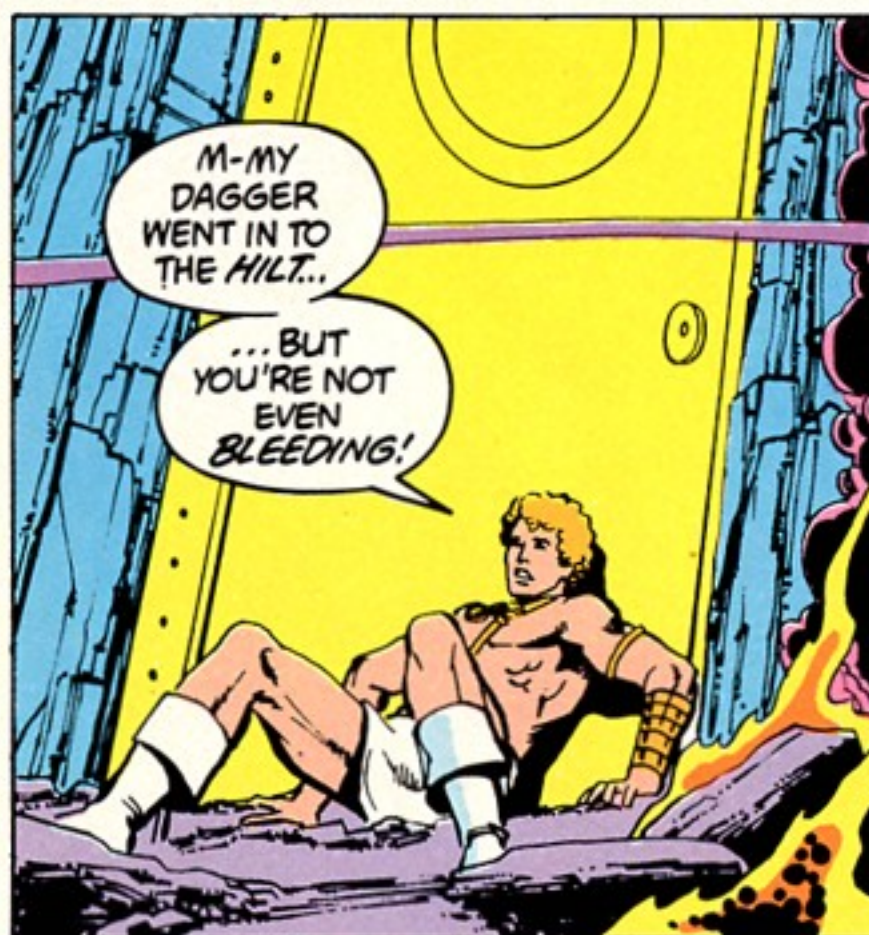
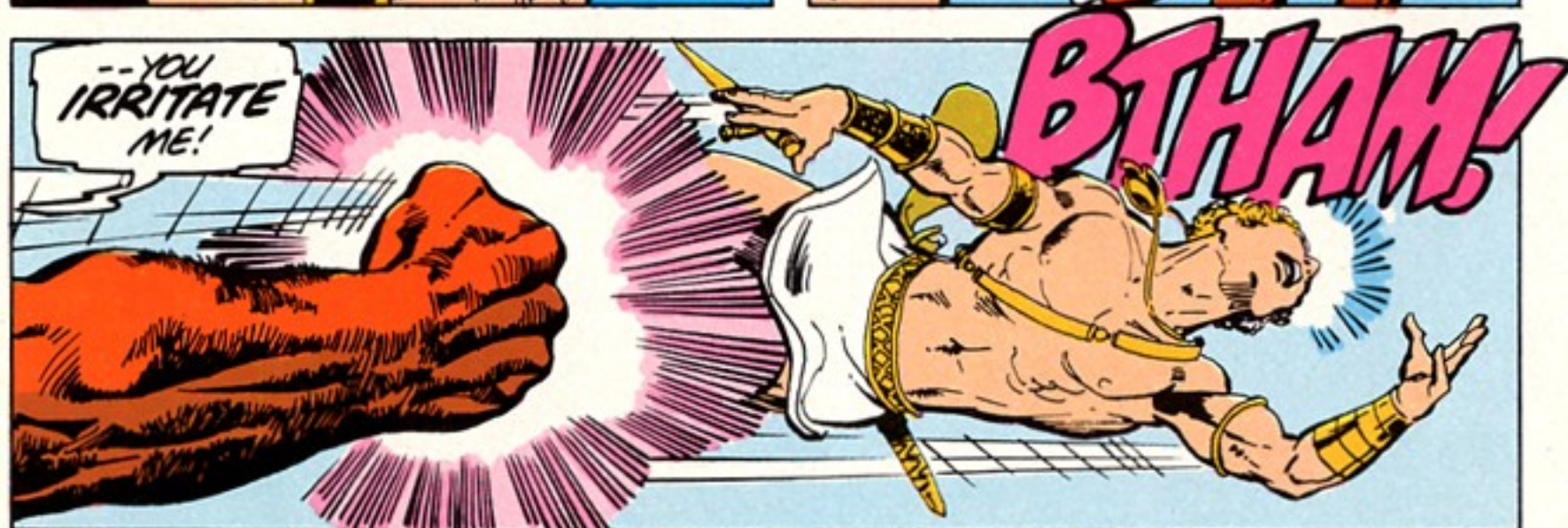
TWO **DOORS** LEAD  
FROM THIS CHAMBER TO  
THOSE ON EITHER SIDE,  
BUT THOSE DOORS ARE  
**LOCKED** AND I HAVE  
THE ONLY KEY!

AND  
WHO  
AM I?

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











HIS CHARGE IS CARRYING HIM CLEAR ACROSS THE CHAMBER!

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



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

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

LET'S SEE TAURUS GET PAST THAT!



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

ANOTHER DOOR UP AHEAD...

WILL I FIND THE SWORD IN THERE?



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

...IS A SPEEDY DEATH!



IN THE CHAMBER  
OF VIRGO...

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

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

GODS...

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

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

IT'S  
BEAUTIFUL.

BUT HOW  
CAN I GET IT  
OUT OF THAT  
GLOBE?

PERHAPS  
BREAK THE  
GLASS  
WITH MY  
DAGGER--?

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

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

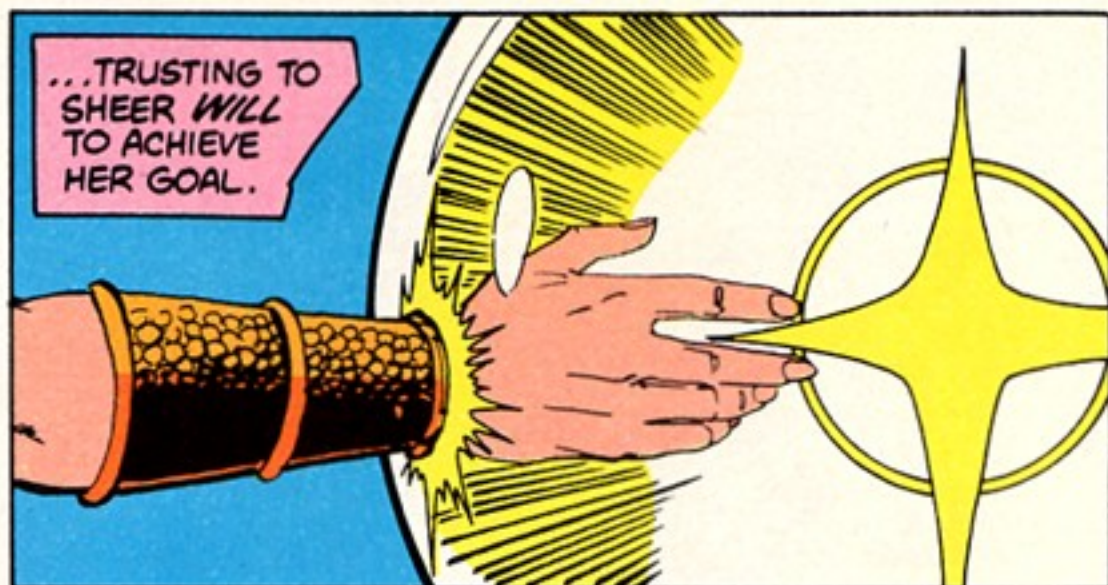




HOT  
BREATH  
WARMS  
HER  
NECK.

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

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



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



GOOD.

YOU'VE PASSED  
THE FIRST  
TEST.

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

WAS THAT AN  
ILLUSION?

NO, CHILD. I SIMPLY RESPONDED  
TO POTENTIAL VIOLENCE.

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



SUCH  
REACTIONS  
ARE BEYOND  
MY CONTROL.

BUT I AM  
PLEASED THE  
CONFRONTATION  
WAS AVOIDED.



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

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



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

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

AH, A VISITOR.  
HOW DELIGHTFUL.

COME  
PLAY WITH  
CAPRICORN,  
MY DEAR.

PLAY  
WITH ME--

--OR  
DIE!

NO THANKS,  
GOAT.

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

# SNORT-SNORT

--FIND  
HIM...



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

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

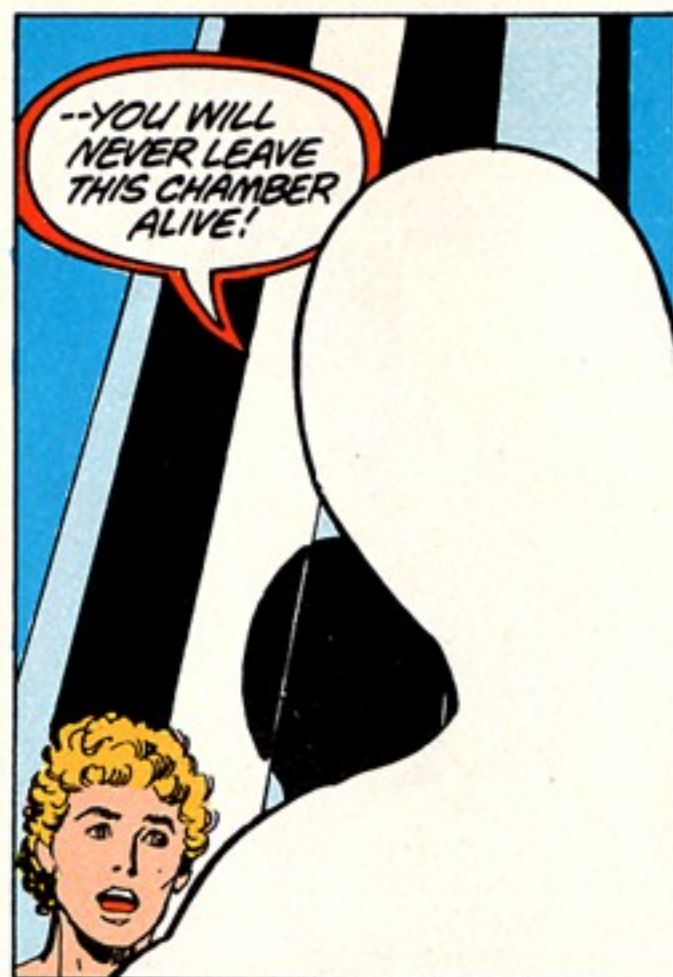
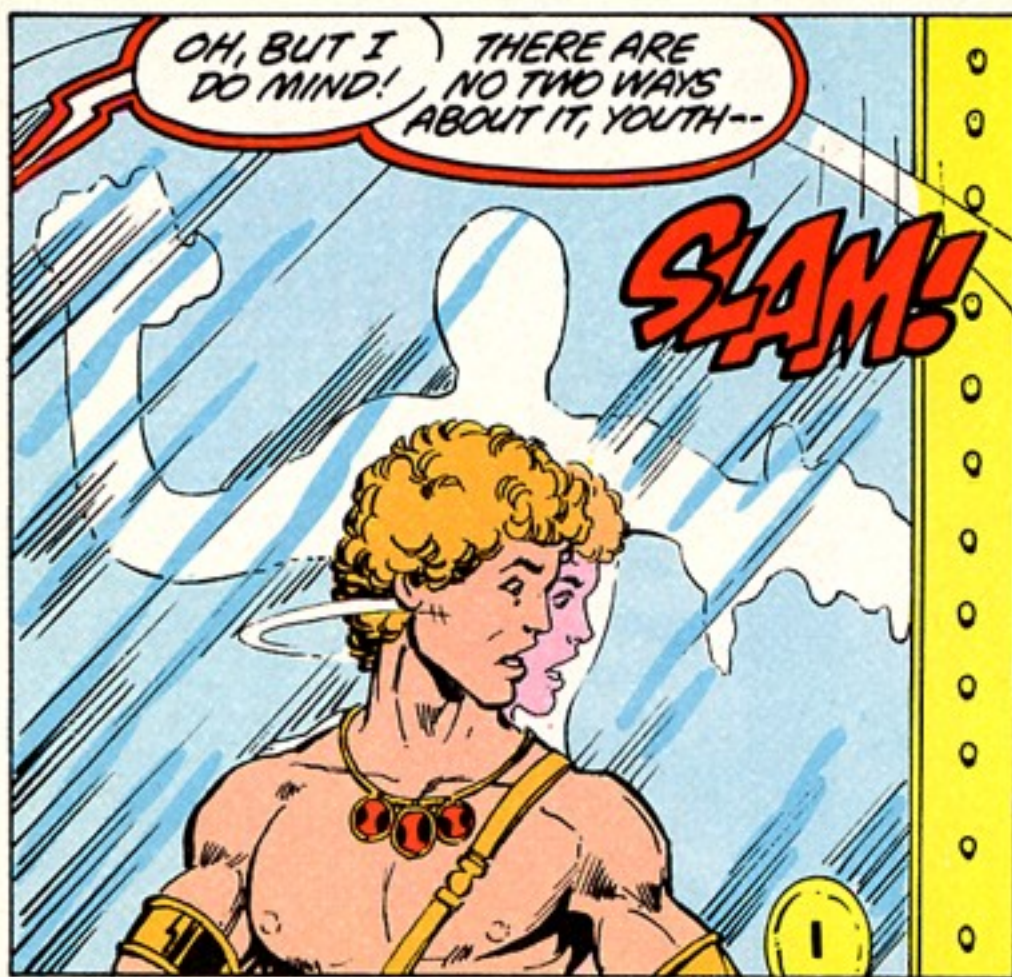
...INTO A SCENE  
OF SHEER  
NIGHTMARE.

WHO  
ENTERS THE  
MIRRORED  
HALL OF  
GEMINI?

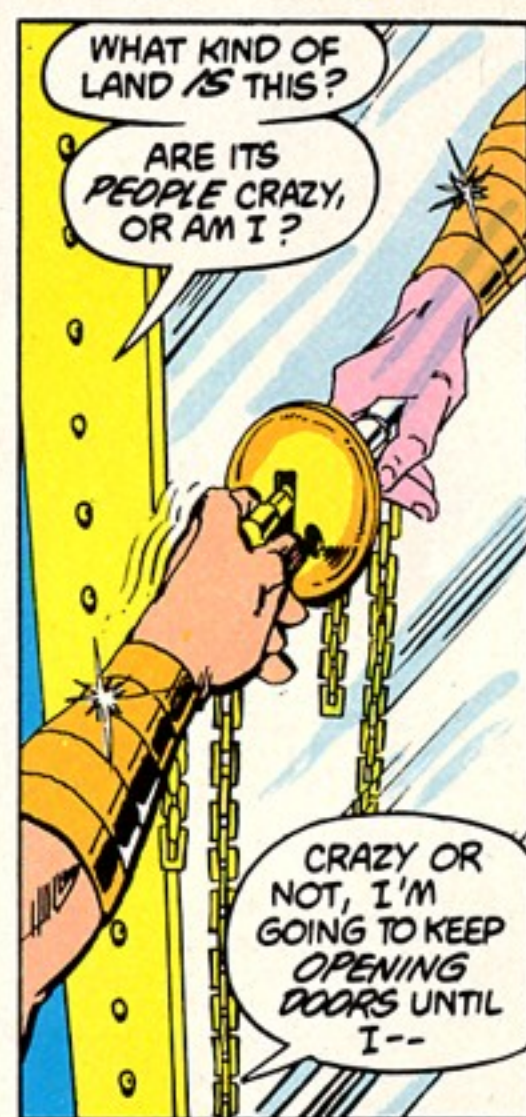
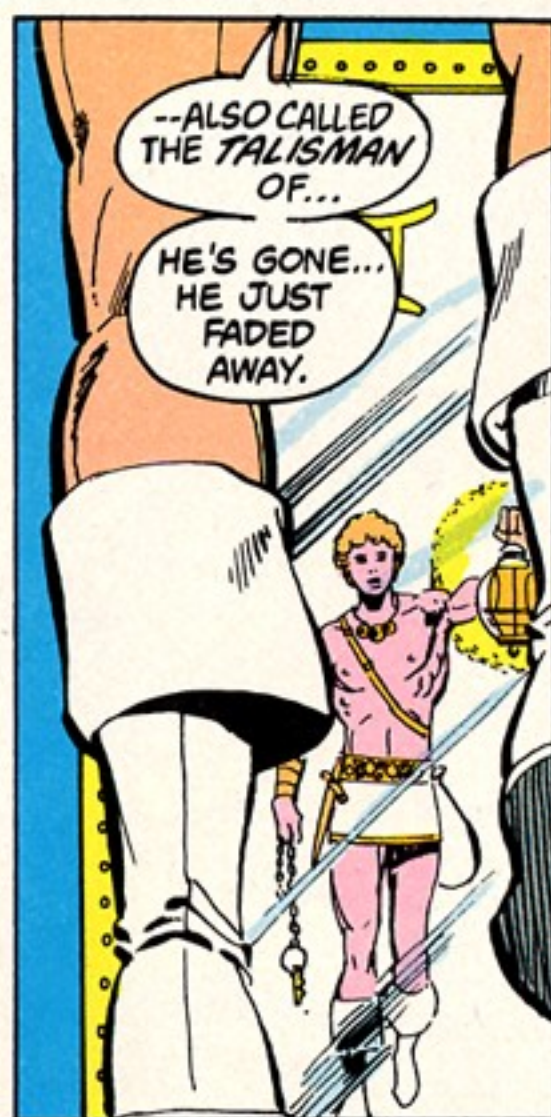
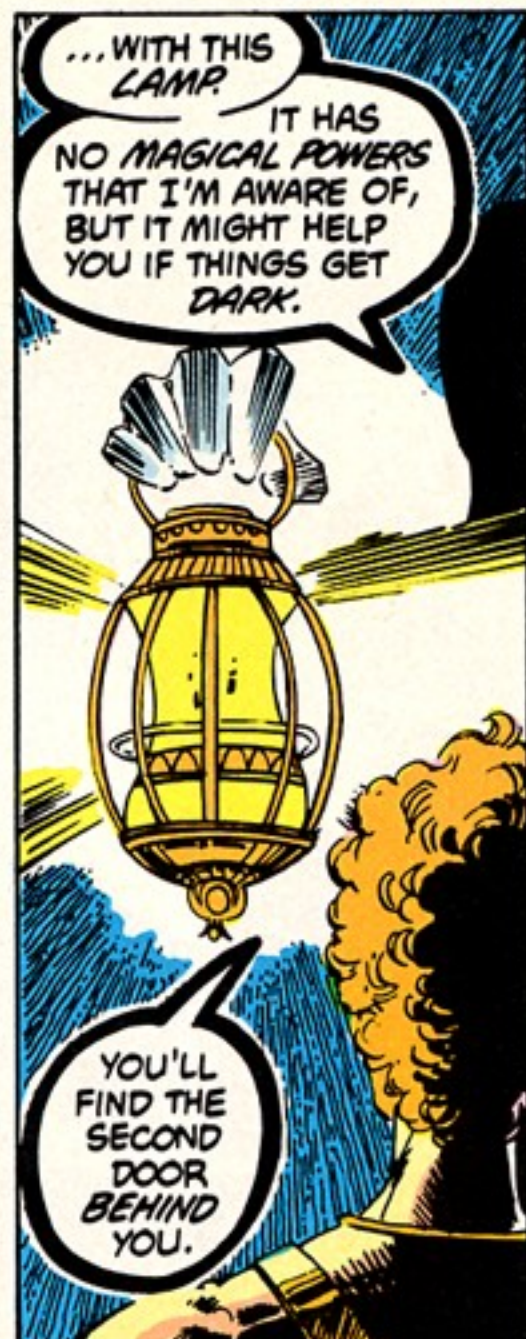
IDENTIFY  
YOURSELF, AND  
PERHAPS I  
SHALL LET YOU  
LIVE!

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









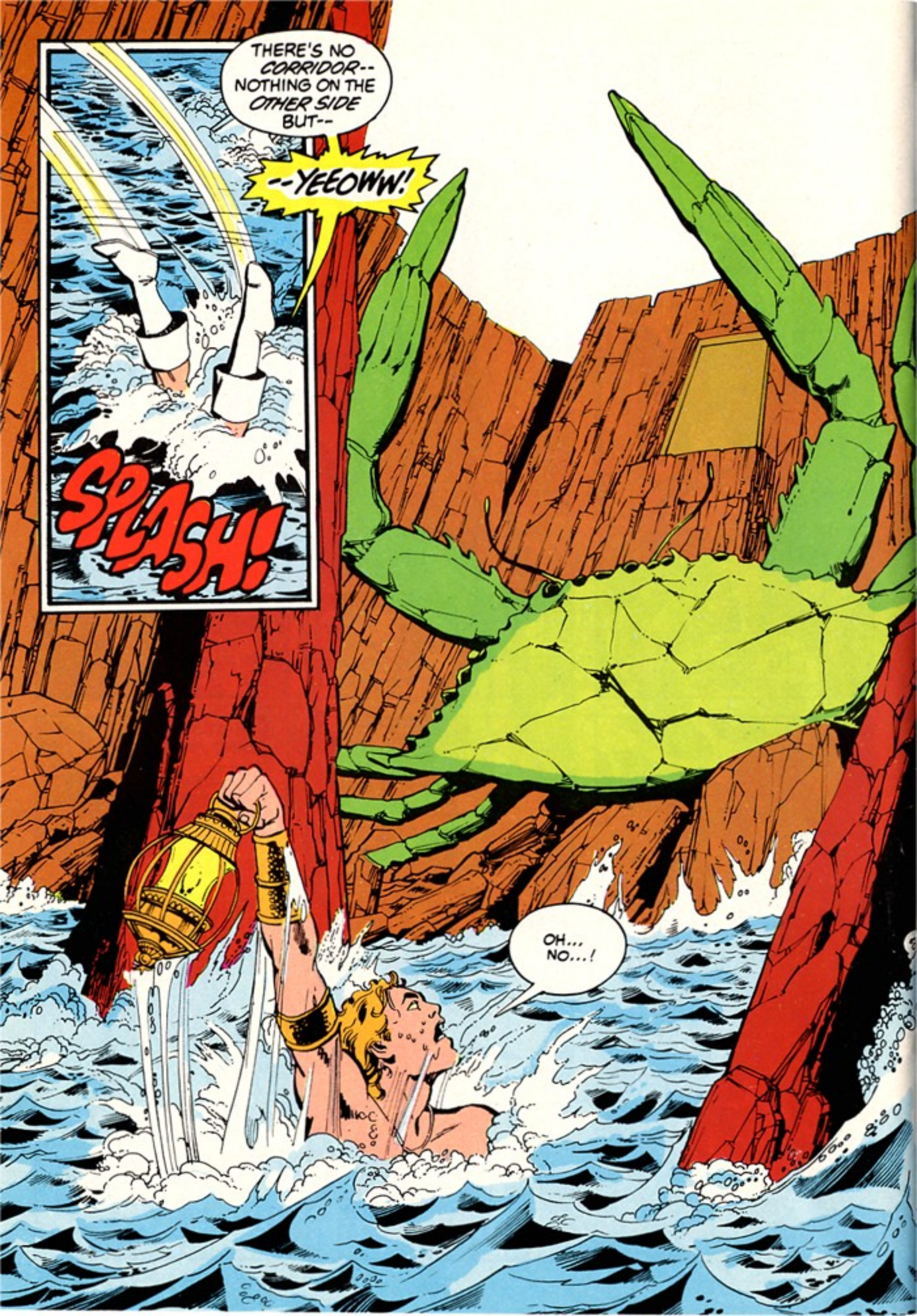


THERE'S NO  
CORRIDOR--  
NOTHING ON THE  
OTHER SIDE  
BUT--

--YEEOWW!

**SPLASH!**

OH...  
NO...!





ELSEWHERE...

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



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

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

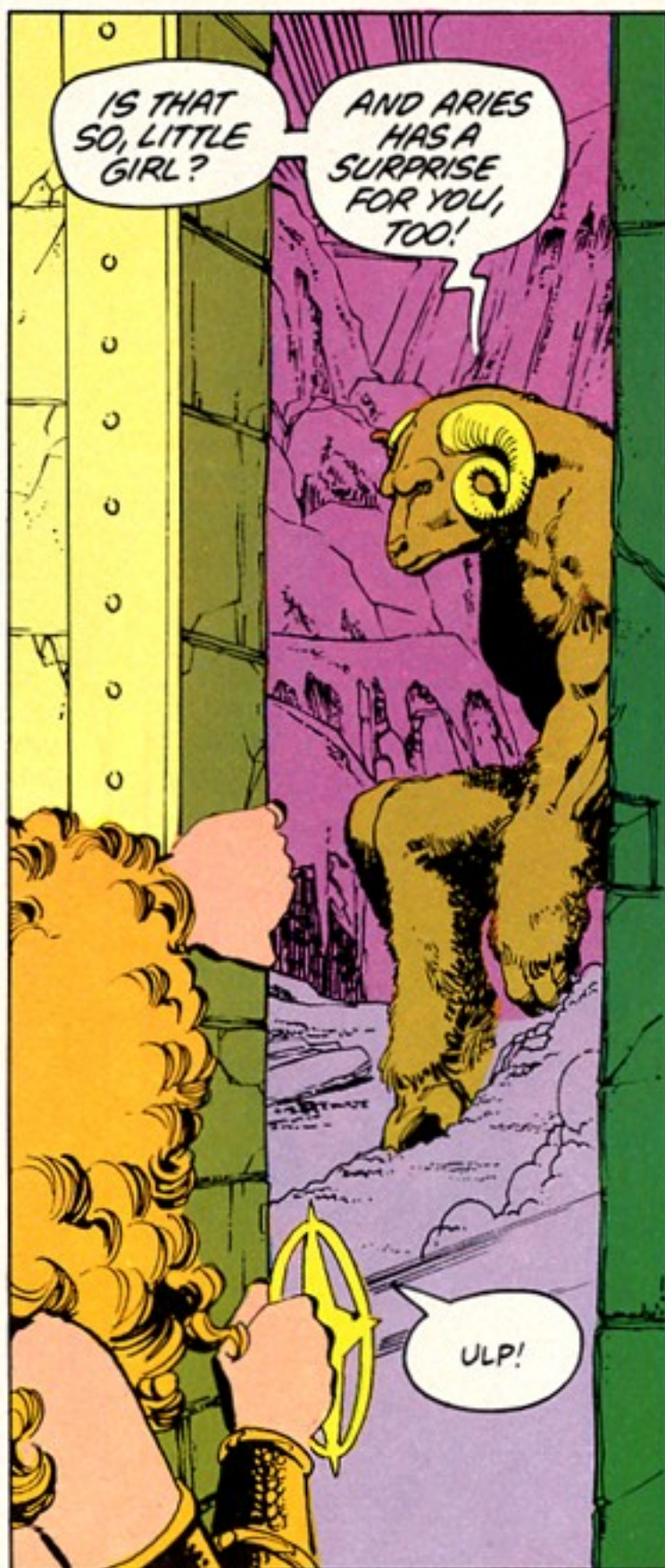
TORR!  
IT'S  
TARRA!

I'VE GOT  
A SURPRISE  
FOR YOU--



IS THAT  
SO, LITTLE  
GIRL?

AND ARIES  
HAS A  
SURPRISE  
FOR YOU,  
TOO!



ULP!

THE MINOTAUR  
LIED!

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



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



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

GODS OF  
MY MOTHER!

HERMINUS,  
WHO IS THIS  
BOLD  
INTRUDER?

IS IT ONE OF  
THE THIEVES  
YOU WARNED  
ME ABOUT?

AYE, BRAVE  
SAGITTARIUS--  
THE VIXEN  
CALLED TARRA!

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

BE SWIFT, BEFORE  
SHE CAN VANISH  
AGAIN--!

TWOK!

OHH!!

GOOD SHOOTING,  
BRAVE WARRIOR!

HA!  
SHE  
DROPPED  
THE  
STAR!

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

THE  
STAR!

NO!



AND, ELSEWHERE...

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

NOT MY  
INTENTION.

AM PEACEFUL,  
IF NOT  
ATTACKED.

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

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

I'M  
BEGINNING  
TO UNDER-  
STAND.

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

I BETTER  
WARN TARRA!

IF I CAN  
FIND HER!

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

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

THIEF AND  
TRESPASSER!

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

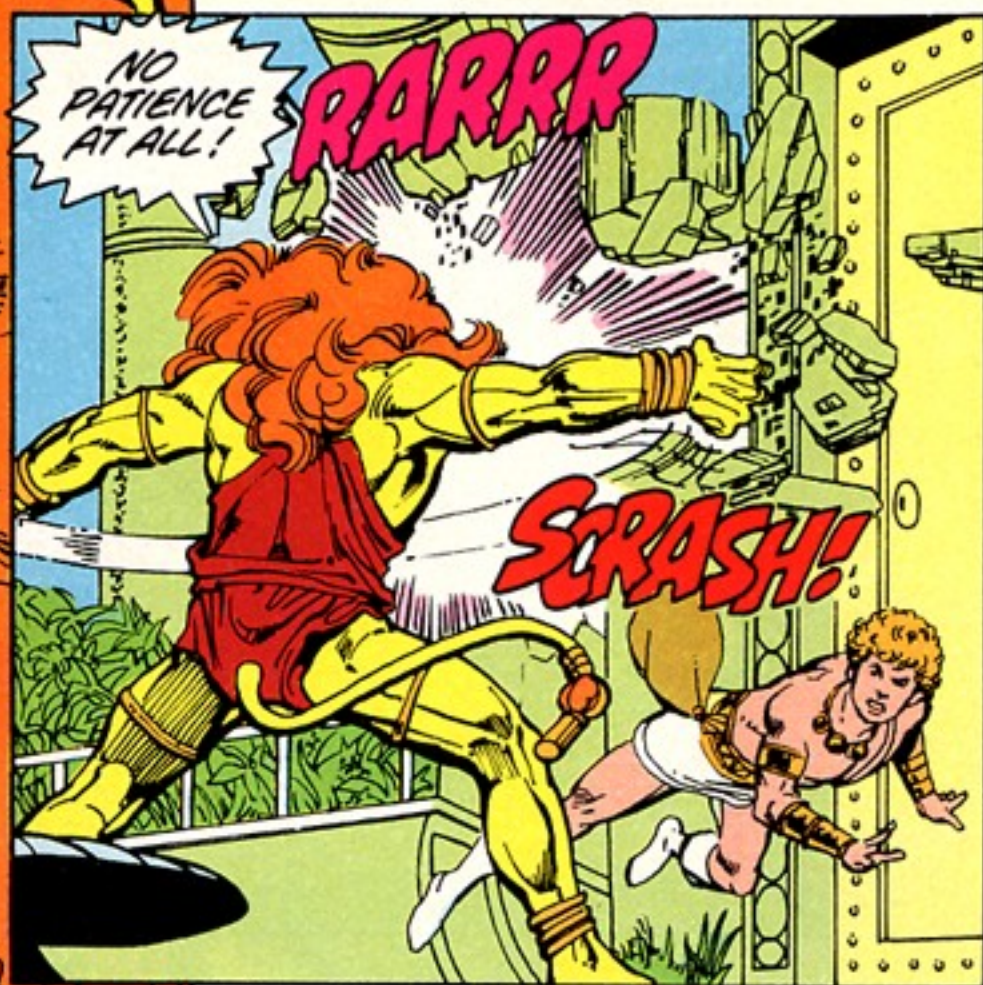
WATCH HIM  
CAREFULLY,  
KING LEO--

HE'S A  
TRICKY  
ONE,  
HE IS!





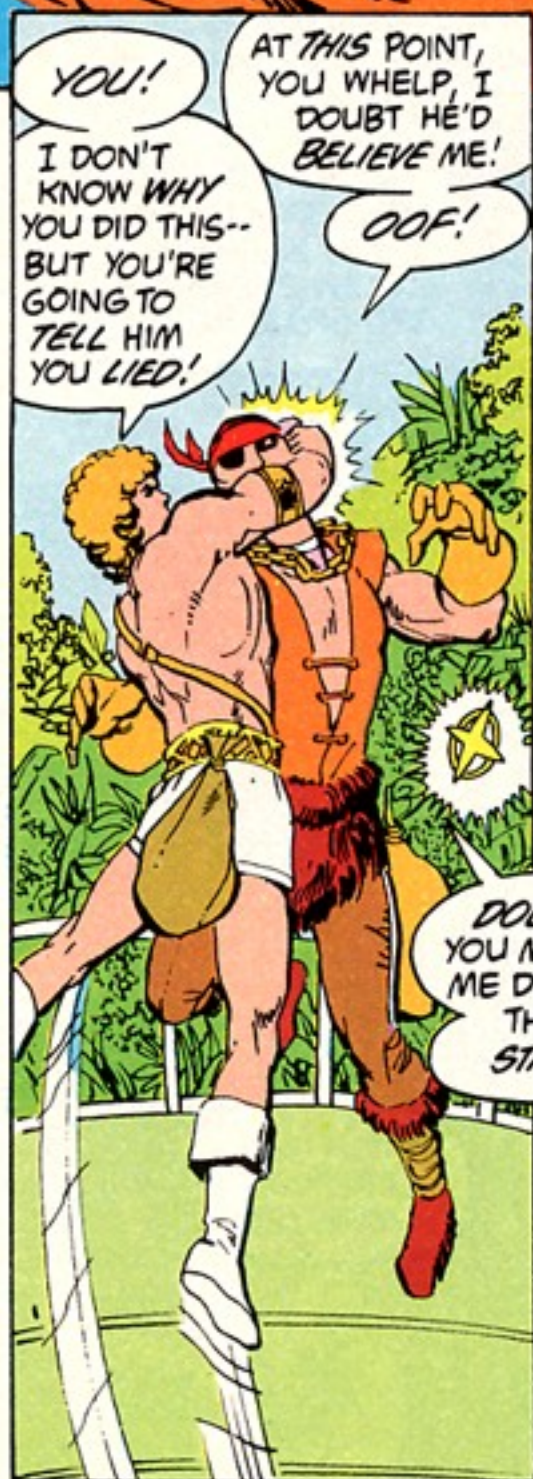
I HAVE NO PATIENCE WITH TRICKSTERS, HERMINUS!



NO PATIENCE AT ALL!

RARRR

SCRASH!



YOU!

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

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

OOF!



THAT THING MUST BE IMPORTANT IF YOU--

UH-OH!

ROWRR

DOLT! YOU MADE ME DROP THE STAR--!



TWO HANDS REACH, BUT ONE REACHES FASTER--



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

GONE!



HALF A BREATH  
LATER...

TARRA!

**TWCHUNK**

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

HE THINKS  
WE'RE  
BANDITS!

I'M  
FINDING  
YOUR  
RANGE,  
WENCH!

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

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

SIMULTANEOUSLY...

NO SIGN OF  
TORR-- HE  
MUST HAVE  
ESCAPED!

AT LEAST ONE  
OF US WILL  
SURVIVE!

HUH?

THIS  
IS IT..

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

NOW  
I HAVE  
YOU!





YES, BUT  
CAN YOU  
KEEP  
HER?

NA-A-YYY!

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



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

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



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

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

... AND  
RETURN TO  
THIEVE  
ANOTHER  
DAY!



SEEN OR UNSEEN,  
MY ATTACKER  
HAS WEIGHT--

--AND WHAT  
HAS WEIGHT  
CAN BE THROWN!

BROTHER...?

NO TIME TO  
EXPLAIN,  
TARRA!


YOU'RE NEAR  
ENOUGH NOW!



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







--OUT  
OF HERE?

SOMETHING HAPPENED  
WHEN WE TOUCHED  
THE STAR TOGETHER!

THIS ISN'T ONE  
OF THE ZODIACAL  
CHAMBERS!

TORR,  
LOOK UP  
THERE!

WE'VE MADE  
IT TO THE CENTRAL  
CHAMBER!

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

--THE SWORD  
OF ULTIMATE  
SORCERY!



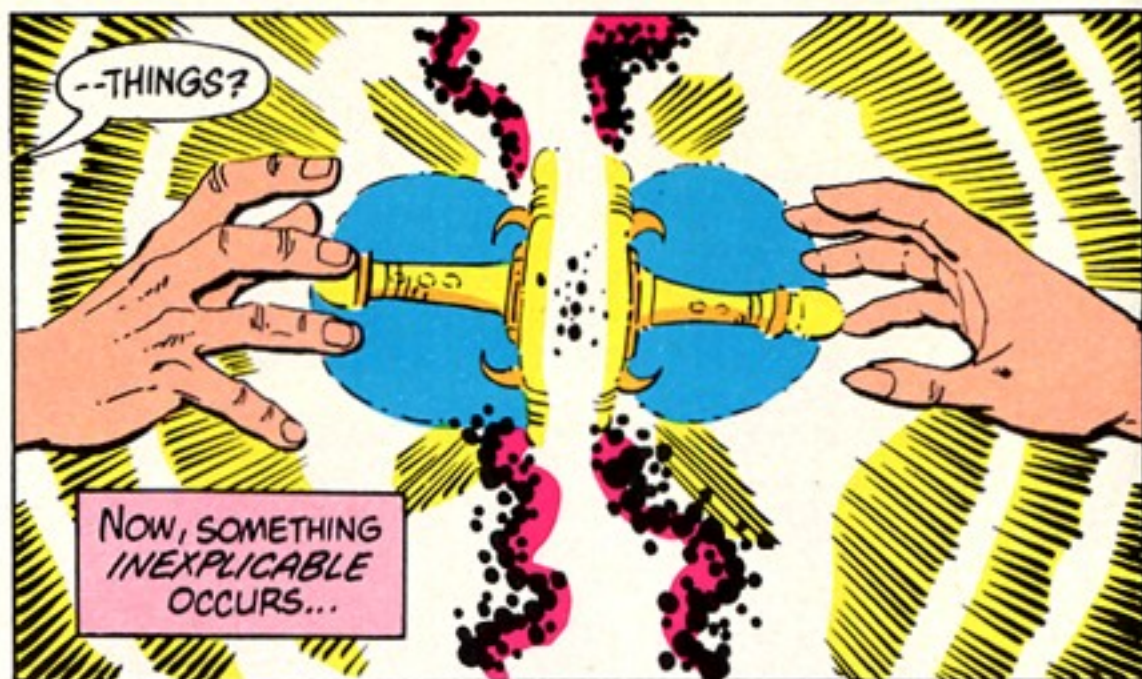
AWE TAKES THEIR  
BREATHS AWAY.

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

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

TOR--  
I JUST  
REALIZED--

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





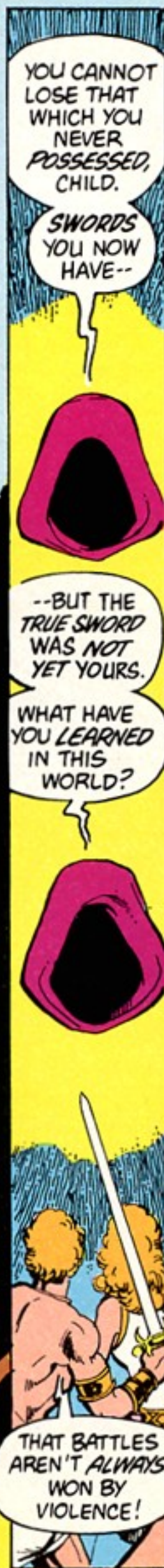


QUICKLY!  
DON'T LET  
IT--



--FALL!

OH, TORR--  
WE'VE  
LOST IT!



YOU CANNOT  
LOSE THAT  
WHICH YOU  
NEVER  
POSSESSED,  
CHILD.

SWORDS  
YOU NOW  
HAVE--

--BUT THE  
TRUE SWORD  
WAS NOT  
YET YOURS.

WHAT HAVE  
YOU LEARNED  
IN THIS  
WORLD?

THAT BATTLES  
AREN'T ALWAYS  
WON BY  
VIOLENCE!



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

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



IT TOO  
WILL  
CHALLENGE  
YOUR WITS,  
AND YOUR  
SKILL.

WILL  
YOU  
MEET  
THAT  
CHALLENGE?

WE'VE  
COME  
THIS FAR,  
MENTORR!

BY THE  
GODS, WE  
WON'T  
STOP NOW!



AND NEITHER  
WILL *MERMINUS*,  
FOOL--

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

AND SO IT ENDS,  
WITH ANOTHER  
BEGINNING.

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

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

IN HIS  
CASTLE  
KEEP, THE  
WIZARD  
*KONJURO*  
SMILES.

IT IS A  
SMILE  
WITHOUT  
*HUMOR*...

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

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







CO19251



ATARI