

AVENGERS

1/- 76
MAY

THE AVENGERS

APPROVED
BY THE
COMICS
CODE
AUTHORITY



MARVEL
COMICS
GROUP

YOUR
WORLD MUST
DIE...
SO THAT
MINE MAY
LIVE!

THE DAY
THE
EARTH
EXPLODED!



MARVEL'S MIGHTIEST
HEROES IN BATTLE WITH
THE AWESOME
ARKON
--WHILE A HELPLESS
MANKIND MUST HOLD
ITS BREATH!

Telegram-Marvel comics
(Avengers)

THE MIGHTY AVENGERS!

THE BLAZE OF BATTLE... THE FLAMES OF LOVE!

THE SCARLET WITCH...AND SOME OF EARTH'S TOP NUCLEAR PHYSICISTS... HAVE BEEN CAPTURED BY ARKON, RULER OF A FAR-FLUNG DIMENSION! AND, IF THE MIGHTY AVENGERS DO NOT ACT SWIFTLY...AND SURELY... OUR VERY PLANET STANDS IN IMMINENT PERIL OF ITS EXISTENCE...!!

SO MUCH FOR THE ESSENTIALS! NOW, LET'S GET DOWN TO THE DETAILS...!

AND WITH BAD LUCK, WE MAY BLOW THIS WHOLE MANSION SKY-HIGH...

BUT...WHO SAID WE'VE GOT A CHOICE?

...NOT TO MENTION SEVERAL CITY BLOCKS WITH IT!

I THINK I HAVE IT THIS TIME, CAP!

WITH GOOD LUCK, THIS D-MACHINE OF OURS MAY WELL BRIDGE THE GAP BETWEEN OUR WORLD...AND THAT OF ARKON!



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NO MATTER
WHAT!!



YOU ARE SAFE NOW, KING
OF THE WAKANDAS!

MY ANDROID BODY WILL
DRAIN OFF THE EXCESS
ENERGY WHICH WRACKS
YOUR FORM!

THANK YOU...
VISION...

STILL, I CANNOT
RESIST OBSERVING
...IF I WERE
HUMAN AS YOU
MENTIONED
BEFORE...

NEITHER I...
NOR ANY MAN...
MIGHT HAVE SAVED YOU!



THERE'S... A MORAL IN
THERE SOMEPLACE... AVENGER!

PERHAPS I SHALL
KNOW WHAT IT IS...
WHEN MY HEAD
CEASES SPINNING...



AND WHAT ABOUT YOU,
PIETRO?

DID YOUR SUPER-SPEED
POWERS PROTECT YOU FROM
HARM FROM THE FORCE
FIELD?

I...
THINK SO,
CAP! BUT.. YOU
FAILED...
FAILED!



WE ARE CLOSER TO
SUCCESS THAN YOU
IMAGINE, MUTANT...
IT IS MERELY THE
POWER SOURCE
WHICH IS THE
DANGER!

THEN WE'LL FIND
ANOTHER POWER
SOURCE... THE
GREATEST ONE
OF ALL!

BUT, WHAT I HAVE
IN MIND WILL TAKE
TIME!



TIME! YES, AVENGERS...
YOU HAVE PLENTY OF
TIME, DON'T YOU?

WHAT DOES IT
MATTER IF MY
SISTER WANDA
MEANWHILE BECOMES
THE BRIDE OF THE
BARBARIAN ARKON..

...AS LONG AS THE
WORLD IS SAVED, AND THERE ARE
MEDALS LEFT TO REWARD THE AVENGERS?

CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE



YOU WERE
ONCE AN
AVENGER,
PIETRO...
THOUGH IT
SHAMES US
NOW TO
ADMIT
THE FACT!

HE'LL BE WORTHY
OF ADMISSION TO
OUR RANKS **AGAIN**,
VISION...

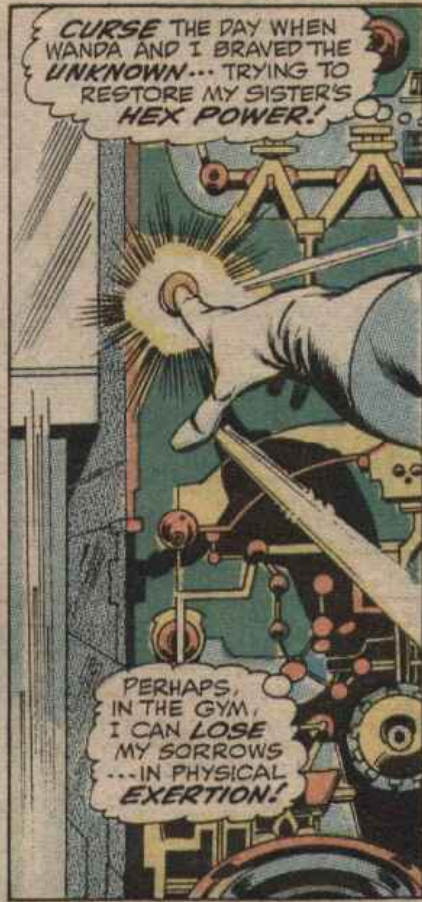
... WHEN HIS
HUMILITY
MATCHES THE
SPEED OF HIS
LIMBS!



EVERY **WORD** WHICH THEY
SPOKE IS A **TRUTH** WHICH
SEARS ME LIKE A BURNING
SWORD!

NO MAN WILL
DARE MORE THAN
THEY TO SAVE
BOTH THE EARTH...
AND WANDA!

STILL, I
AM **GALLED**
BY THIS INACTIVITY...
THIS ENDLESS WAITING!



CURSE THE DAY WHEN
WANDA AND I **BRAVED** THE
UNKNOWN... TRYING TO
RESTORE MY SISTER'S
HEX POWER!

PERHAPS,
IN THE GYM,
I CAN **LOSE**
MY **SORROWS**
...IN **PHYSICAL**
EXERTION!



OKAY, LITTLE SURE-SHOT...
THIS IS IT!

MAYBE YOU CAN'T
BE MUCH HELP WITH
THAT **DIMENSION-
HOPPER** OF
T'CHALLA'S...

BUT, WITH 500 POUNDS
OF **PULL** ON THIS THING,
YOU CAN STILL PLAY
ROBIN HOOD WITH
THE BEST OF 'EM!



GOLIATH... HE WHO
ONCE WAS **HAWKEYE**...
PRACTICES HIS **MARKS-
MANSHIP** IN THIS
CHAMBER!

I MUST GO
ELSEWHERE
TO AWAIT THE
SUMMONS TO
BATTLE!

ALL
RIGHT, CLINT
BOY... LET
'ER RIP!!

RRAAKK





WHAT'RE YOU TALKIN' ABOUT, TASHA?

YOU COME IN OUTTA NOWHERE AFTER ALL THESE WEEKS...AND READ ME A DEAR JOHN LETTER, JUST LIKE THAT?

THERE'S GOTTA BE SOME REASON... SOMETHING!

NOTHING... THAT I CAN SAY!

NOTHING THAT WON'T HURT EVEN MORE THAN A SIMPLE GOODBYE!

OKAY, LADY... I'LL LET YOU GO... AND I WON'T TRY TO STOP YOU...

AND ALL YOU GOTTA SAY IS ...THAT YOU NEVER LOVED ME!



IF THAT'S WHAT IT TAKES ...THEN I'LL SAY IT!

I NEVER LOVED YOU!

NEVER...!



AND, EVEN AS AN UNSEEN TEAR BELIES THE BLACK WIDOW'S CRYPTIC MESSAGE, LET US VIEW ANOTHER SCENE EAST OF THAT TEARDROP... WEST OF THOSE SOFTLY-SPOKEN WORDS...

DO NOT LET THE GLOOM WHICH NOW BESHROUDS THE LAND DECEIVE YOU, FEMALE!

MY WORLD WILL SOON BLOOM AGAIN... AND YOU SHALL BE ITS QUEEN!

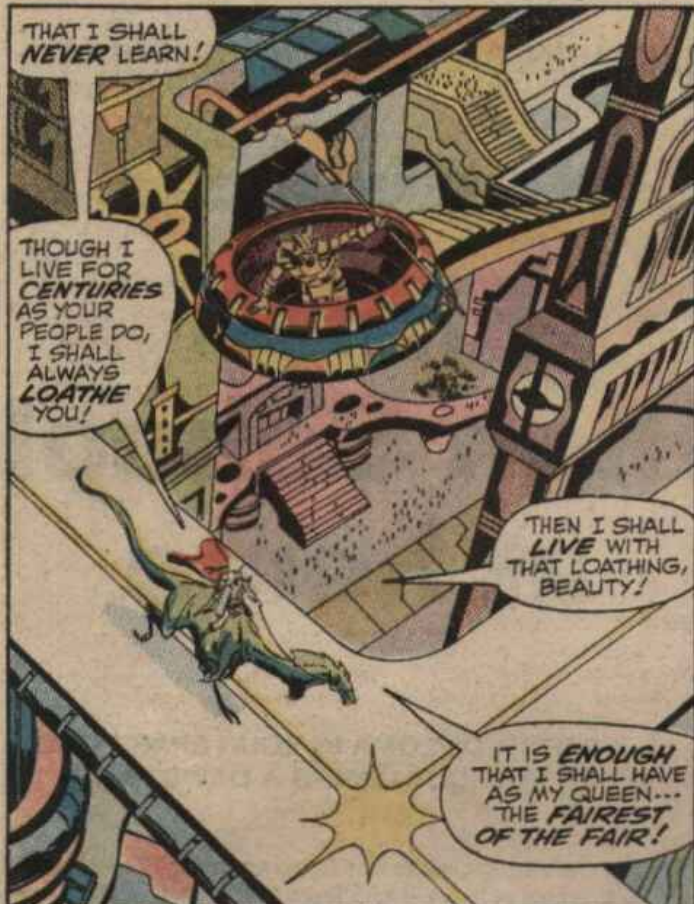


BUT, FOR YOUR WORLD TO LIVE, MINE MUST BECOME AN ATOMIC RUIN!

HOW CAN I LOVE THE MAN WHO DESTROYS ALL I HOLD DEAR...

...AND WHO KEEPS ME CAPTIVE HERE, AGAINST MY WILL?

YOU SHALL LEARN, BEAUTY, AS THE YEARS TURN TO ASHES...AND YOU HAVE NO ONE ELSE TO TURN TO!



THAT I SHALL NEVER LEARN!

THOUGH I LIVE FOR CENTURIES AS YOUR PEOPLE DO, I SHALL ALWAYS LOATHE YOU!

THEN I SHALL LIVE WITH THAT LOATHING, BEAUTY!

IT IS ENOUGH THAT I SHALL HAVE AS MY QUEEN... THE FAIREST OF THE FAIR!



HAVE YOU NO PITY, ARKON... NO IOTA OF HUMAN KINDNESS?

NONE, GIRL!

THAT IS FOR WOMEN AND OLD FOOLS... NOT FOR ARKON!

ALL HAIL ARKON THE MAGNIFICENT... WARLORD OF WARLORDS... IMPERION OF ALL HE SURVEYS!



ARKON... THANK THE GODS YOU HAVE COME!

WE MUST ACT SWIFTLY TO DESTROY THE EARTH... OR WE OURSELVES ARE LOST!

HAVE NOT THE CAPTURED SCIENTISTS YET BUILT THE DESIRED NUCLEAR DEVICE, GREYBEARD?



ALL OUR ENTREATIES... OUR THREATS... HAVE BEEN AS NAUGHT, GREAT ARKON!

THERE REMAINS BUT ONE WAY TO GAIN THE KNOWLEDGE WE SEEK!

I KNOW WHEREOF YOU SPEAK, OLD ONE!

LET IT THEN BE USED!



AH, BUT YOU KNOW YOUR OWN DECREE, IMPERION!

ONLY IN YOUR PRESENCE MAY THE ULTIMATE PERSUADER BE EMPLOYED!

SAY NO MORE!

WE SHALL FACE OUR RELUCTANT GUESTS TOGETHER!



YOU **HANDMAIDENS!**
CARE FOR MY BRIDE-TO-
BE, AND CARRY OUT
HER EVERY **WHIM!**

NOW, GREYBEARD...
LET US **AWAY!**

...UNLESS SHE
BIDS YOU TRY TO
HELP HER **ESCAPE!**



FOR, TIME GROWS
SHORT... AND THE
DAY TURNS **DARK!**

WE SHALL
SCARCELY
LIVE TO SEE
ANOTHER
MORNING...

...UNLESS IT
BE IN THE GLOW
OF A **BRIGHTLY**
DYING **EARTH!**



IMPERION... WHAT OF THE ONE
CALLED THE **TOAD?** SHOULD I...?

LET HIM **LIVE,** OLD
MAN! HE IS NOT
WORTH THE **KILLING!**

ARKON! HAVE YOU COME TO
SET THE **TOAD FREE,** MASTER?

IF YOU DO, I
SHALL SERVE
YOU **FAITHFULLY**
AND **WELL!**



WITHOUT **CEASING**
I SHALL SING
YOUR PRAISES,
GOOD **ARKON!**
AT **DAWN** AND
AT **DUSK...**

LET US
PASS BY,
GREYBEARD!

I CANNOT ABIDE
SUCH **SPINELESS**
WHIMPERINGS!



BUT YOU
SCIENTISTS
ARE A FAR
DIFFERENT
BREED, EH?

WELL, THERE ARE
WAYS TO MAKE YOU
SING A MORE **AGREE-**
ABLE **TUNE!**

YOUR **BULLIES**
HAVE ALREADY
TRIED THOSE
WAYS, **ARKON!**

AND THEY HAVE
FAILED... AS
YOU **WILL!**



FAIL? YOU DARE VOICE THAT WORD TO ARKON THE MAGNIFICENT?

FOR THAT BIT OF INSOLENCE, YOU SHALL BE THE FIRST TO FACE--THE ULTIMATE PERSUADER!

NO... KEEP BACK..!

...YOU SEE, MEN OF EARTH? THE BEARDED ONE HAD THE STRONGEST WILL AMONG YOU!

YET, THIS DEVICE WILL PAINLESSLY EXTRACT EVERY PIECE OF KNOWLEDGE WITHIN HIS BRAIN!

THEN... THRU US... YOU'LL LEARN HOW TO DECIMATE THE EARTH!

BUT YOU THREE SHALL LIVE ON HERE!

AND ONE WORLD IS AS GOOD AS ANOTHER, EH?



SOME TIME LATER...

IT IS ENOUGH, IMPERION!

THEN... THE SECRET OF THE ATOM IS OURS?

AY... AND HARNESSSED WITHIN THIS GLOWING SPHERE!

HURL THIS GLOBE DOWN AT THE DECREED SITE ON THE EARTH-WORLD...

THAT CONCERNS ME NOT AT ALL!

WHAT MATTERS IS THAT ARKON'S WORLD SHALL LIVE!..

AND THE RESULTING BLAST WILL LIGHT OUR UNIVERSE FOR UNTOLD AGES!

THE EARTH, OF COURSE, WILL BE NOTHING BUT A SMOLDERING COSMIC CORPSE!

...AND MY BEAUTEOUS BRIDE NEED NEVER KNOW THE COST!!

?





"...I should know what God and man is."

I DO NOT UNDERSTAND YOUR WORDS....!

HOW CAN A FLOWER HOLD THE SECRET OF A COSMOS?



OH, ARKON...ARKON... YOU ARE SO BRAVE... EVEN NOBLE IN YOUR OWN WAY!

PERHAPS I COULD LOVE YOU... COULD EVEN BE HAPPY AS QUEEN OF YOUR WORLD...

...IF ONLY YOU WEREN'T SO COLD... AS DISTANT AS THE STARS...!



THEN, PERHAPS YOU COULD TEACH ARKON TO BE... WHAT HE HAS NEVER BEEN!

PERHAPS...

YES... PERHAPS...



WARLORD!! INVADERS APPROACH... THRU A HOLE IN SPACE ITSELF!

IT CAN ONLY BE... THE AVENGERS!

OH, NO! NOT NOW... NOT NOW!

ARKON... LET ME TALK TO THEM... REASON WITH THEM!



ARKON DOES NOT HIDE BEHIND THE SKIRTS OF A WOMAN!

PREPARE FOR BATTLE!

IT IS THEY! EVEN NOW, I HEAR THEIR CRY RING OUT...!



WE'RE HERE! WE'VE BROKEN THRU THE BARRIER!

BUT... LOOK WHAT LOOMS BEFORE US...!

AND, IN THE NEXT SHATTERING INSTANT, THE COSTUMED INTRUDERS BEHOLD A SIGHT SUCH AS FEW HAVE EVER SEEN... A PANORAMA OF *POWER UNLEASHED* IN THE SERVICE OF THE GOD OF WAR... A DEADLY TABLEAU TO STUN THE *EYE* AND NUMB THE *SENSES*...!

PERHAPS NO MAN CAN STAND AGAINST SUCH A HORDE OF BATTLE-HONED BARBARIANS...



...NOT EVEN THE AVENGERS!!

LOOK OUT!

UNHHH!

BY ASGARD'S
GLEAMING
GATES!

THAT WAS
ONE OF
ARKON'S
BOLTS...

AY? THEN, BY THE
BRISTLING BEARD
OF ALL-FATHER
ODIN...

YOUR URU HAMMER
MAY HAVE BROUGHT US
ACROSS THE GREAT BAR-
RIER, THUNDER GOD... BUT BE-
WARE...

THOR HATH
FOUND AT LAST
ONE WHO BE
WORTHY TO TEST
HIS METTLE!

IF ANY
WOULD
BEWARE,
ANDROID...



THEN, LET IT BE
THOSE WHO SERVE
THE ONE CALLED
ARKON!!

KRAAAK!



YOU **HEARD** THE MAN,
AVENGERS! LET'S GO!

CAREFUL,
CREW! WE'RE
NOT SURE WHAT WE'RE
UP AGAINST YET!

TIME ENOUGH
FOR CAUTION,
IRON MAN...



... WHEN THE WORLD
AND MY SISTER
ARE SAFE FROM
HARM!



ARKON! YES... HE'S
THE KEY TO THIS!

CAPTURE
HIM... AND
THE OTHERS
WILL LOSE
HEART!



THAT'S A REAL NICE
THEORY YOU GOT THERE,
CAP!

AND, I'LL TRY
TESTIN' IT OUT
REAL SOON
NOW, HEAR?

BUT FIRST, I GOTTA WADE
THRU A COUPLE MORE
ACRES OF THESE
JOY-BOYS!



BY *THAT* TIME, AVENGER, IT WILL BE *TOO LATE!*

FOR, ALL OF YOU INTER-LOPERS SHALL BE *DEAD...*

...BEGINNING WITH... *THAT ONE!*



YOUR GOLDEN BOLTS TRANSPORT YOU THRU SPACE... AND THE *SCARLET* ONES ARE WEAPONS OF DIRE *DESTRUCTION!*

BUT NEITHER CAN AFFECT THE *VISION* WHEN HE DOES NOT WISH TO BE MOVED!



WE HAVE *WON*, AVENGERS! THIS IS THE *LAST* OF ARKON'S ELITE GUARD!



AND *THIS*, PANTHER, IS THE *LAST* OF HIS *ARTILLERY...*

...JUST SO MUCH *TARGET PRACTICE* FOR MY OLD RELIABLE *REPULSOR RAYS!*

SZAP!



IT IS... BEYOND ALL *BELIEF!*

THE *CREAM...* THE VERY *FLOWER* OF MY GUARDSMEN...

...THEY ARE SCATTERED LIKE *CHAFF* BEFORE THE WHIRLWIND POWER OF THE *AVENGERS!*



STILL, THEY SHALL PAY A *HIGH PRICE* FOR THE HEAD OF *ARKON...!*

WHAT..?!

IT IS *I*, WARLORD... YOUR FAITHFUL *VIZIER!*

DO NOT LOOK FOR ENEMIES ON *EVERY* HAND!

YOUR FORCES
HAVE **LOST** THE
FATEFUL ENCOUNTER,
ARKON!

ONLY YOUR OWN **BATTLE-
BOLTS** CAN DO AUGHT
AGAINST THE **OTHER-
WORLDERS!**

AY, GREYBEARD... BUT
THOSE SHAFTS SHALL
DRINK **DEEP** BEFORE
THIS DAY IS DONE!

DO NOT SEEK VAINLY AFTER
PERSONAL GLORY, WARLORD!

KNOW YOU NOT HOW YOU CAN YET
CHANGE THE TASTE OF VICTORY
TO **WORMWOOD** IN THEIR
MOUTHS?

I **GRASP**
YOUR
MEANING,
OLD ONE!

AND, BY
THE GREAT
BARRIER...
I SHALL
ACT ON IT!

THE AWESOME **ATOM-
SPHERE** SHALL SAVE
THE DAY FOR ARKON!

WHEN IT IS **EXPLODED**
IN THE AVENGERS' WORLD
...THEIR TRIUMPHAL CRIES
SHALL CHANGE TO DIRE
LAMENTATIONS!

THE...**ATOM-
SPHERE?**

THEN... YOU
LIED WHEN YOU
SWORE... YOU WOULD
NOT DESTROY THE
EARTH!

FOOLISH FEMALE! AN
IMPERION IS **ABOVE** MERE
TRUTH AND FALSEHOOD!

HURRY, WARLORD!
THEY ARE ALMOST
UPON US!

AND...TO
THINK THAT I
BELIEVED YOUR
LIES... THAT I ALMOST...

DON'T LET IT
GET YOU **DOWN**,
WITCHIE!

AFTER ALL,
YER ONLY A
FEMALE!

YOU...
HERE!!

AND OUR
FELLOW
AVENGERS HAVE
SURROUNDED THE
VERY **PALACE**, MADMAN!

NO, ARKON!
DON'T USE YOUR
DEADLY **SCARLET**
BOLTS ON
THEM...

SILENCE, WOMAN!
YOUR SENTIMENTS MEAN
NOTHING TO ARKON!

YET, IT IS
THE **GOLDEN**
BOLTS I USE...

...AND YOUR
RESCUERS
SHALL WISH
IT HAD BEEN
**OTHER-
WISE!**

SHBOOM!





YOU AVENGERS ARE **MAD...** TO HURL YOUR PUNY MIGHT AGAINST THAT OF **ARKON!**

HE'S... **ELECTRIFIED** THE ROOF BENEATH ME! **PASSING OUT...**

IT'S ALL UP... TO THE **OTHERS...** NOW...

KRAAKKLI

FLEE, WHOEVER YOU ARE! YOU CAN'T **STOP** HIM... **NO ONE CAN!**

SHE SPEAKS THE **TRUTH**, **ANDROID!** **BEWARE!**

YOUR BOLTS CANNOT HARM ONE THEY CANNOT **TOUCH**, BARBARIAN!

THEY NEED NOT **DESTROY** YOU... ONLY **DELAY** YOU!

AND **THAT** THEY SHALL DO FULL WELL! **OBSERVE!**

THE **SCARLET BOLT** PASSES **THRU** ME... AS I **INTENDED!** AND YET...

IT GIVES OFF SOME SORT OF **SMOKE...** FUMES WHICH **BLIND** ME!

AND IF I CAN'T **SEE...** **ARKON** WILL BE FREE TO HURL THE **ATOM-SPHERE!**

DON'T **SWEAT** IT, RED!

THERE'S STILL **ONE** OF THIS TEAM LEFT ON THE **BENCH...** THE **BIGGEST** ONE...

I CANNOT MATCH YOUR **STRENGTH**, GIANT...

BUT, EVEN IN MY WORLD, SOMETHING IS KNOWN OF... **LEVERAGE!**

AND **SUCH** IS MY **POWER...** THAT IT MAY WELL BE THE **DECIDING FACTOR!**

HE'S... **STRONGER** THAN I THOUGHT... AND HE'S **MURDERIN' ME!**

BUT... IF I FALL BACK... HE'S GOT TIME TO HURL THAT **A-BOMB!**

I GOTTA **HOLD ON...** AND **PRAY...**

THEN SUDDENLY, THRU PAIN-FILLED EYES, THE FIGHTING AVENGER **SEES...**

"**HEAR ME, IMPERION!** THE TIME FOR **BATTLE...** HAS **ENDED!!**"

YOU DARE COMMAND ME? HAS YOUR BRAIN GONE AS SOFT AS YOUR FRAME?

"ONLY A MADMAN KILLS WHEN THERE IS NO LONGER NEED, SIRE!"

"AND, YOUR WORLD NOW HAS THE LIGHT YOU SOUGHT TO GIVE IT."

WHAT? SAY ON, OLD ONE!

"AY, IMPERION! WITH YOUR MEN HELD AT BAY, THE ONE CALLED IRON MAN DEVISED AN ENGINE TO RESTORE THE LIFE-GIVING RINGS WHICH ONCE LIT OUR WORLD!"

"IT WAS SET IN MOTION BY LIGHTNING CALLED DOWN BY THE MIGHTY THUNDER GOD!"

THEN, OUR QUARREL IS AT AN END... AS IS MY NEED FOR THE ATOM-SPHERE!

I AM GLAD... FOR SOMEONE TOLD ME THAT ALL LIFE IS SACRED...

AND...WHAT OF ME, ARKON?

...EVEN THE LIFE... OF THE FRAILEST FLOWER!

THERE IS SOMETHING I HAVE NOT TOLD YOU, FAIR ONE!

THE CROSSING OF THE GREAT BARRIER HAS DOUBTLESS RESTORED YOUR MUTANT POWERS... AS YOU SHALL LEARN FOR YOURSELF!

STILL, IT IS NO LONGER MY WISH THAT YOU MARRY ME AGAINST YOUR WILL!

YOU TAUGHT ME MUCH, GIRL... PERHAPS MORE THAN EVEN I YET KNOW!

PERHAPS ANOTHER DAY... ANOTHER HOUR...

WE SHALL SPEAK OF THIS... AGAINNN...

HE'S GONE!

AND LOOK WHO TOOK HIS PLACE!

THE SON OF ODIN SHALL FIND A HOME FOR THIS DEADLY TOY... IN THE BLACK SEA OF SPACE!

GOOD! BUT.. WHAT DO YOU HIDE BENEATH YOUR CLOAK, MY SISTER?

IT IS... NOTHING, PIETRO!

NOTHING... AT ALL...

FINIS