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MARVEL

DC

JLA★AVENGERS

BUSIEK • PÉREZ

JLA/AVENGERS 1 OF 4

1 OF 4

BUSIEK • PÉREZ WITH SMITH

MARVEL COMICS • DC COMICS

NUMBER ONE

JLA AVENGERS

BUSIEK • PÉREZ

KURT BUSIEK
WRITER

GEORGE PÉREZ
ARTIST

TOM SMITH
COLORIST & SEPARATOR

COMICRAFT
LETTERER

.....

AND THERE CAME A DAY
UNLIKE ANY OTHER,
WHEN EARTH'S MIGHTIEST
HEROES WERE UNITED
AGAINST A COMMON
THREAT! ON THAT DAY
THE AVENGERS WERE
BORN -- TO FIGHT THE
FOES NO SINGLE HERO
COULD WITHSTAND!

THE AVENGERS

JLA

INDIVIDUALLY THEY ARE
THE WORLD'S GREATEST
SUPER HEROES -- NOBLE
CHAMPIONS DEDICATED
TO HONOR AND RIGHT-
EOUSNESS. TOGETHER
THEY ARE THE JUSTICE
LEAGUE OF AMERICA,
AND THEY FALL TO NO
ENEMY OR EVIL!

DIRECT EDITION



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COVER ARTIST: **GEORGE PÉREZ**

COVER COLORIST & SEPARATOR: **TOM SMITH**

LOGO DESIGN: **JOHN J. HILL**

PROLOGUE: THE WORLD IS POLEMACHUS.

IT IS A WORLD THAT HAS KNOWN MUCH
WAR--THAT HAS REVELED IN COMBAT
AND BLOODSHED--

BUT TODAY--

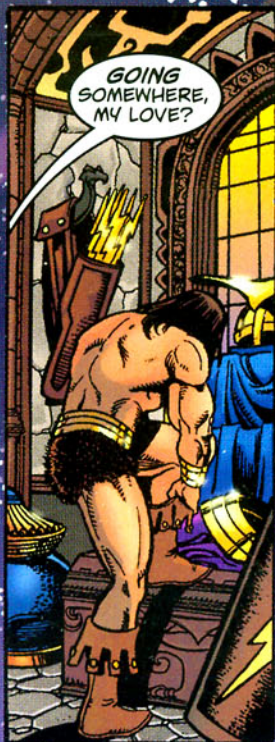


TODAY ITS PROUD
CAPITAL CITY KNOWS
ONLY JOY AND
CELEBRATION. FOR
TODAY IS A GREAT
DAY--

--THE DAY
OF THE
IMPERION.



GOING
SOMEWHERE,
MY LOVE?



I THOUGHT I'D GRAB A WINESKIN,
SOME MEAT AND CHEESE FROM THE
COOKROOM, AND GO KHEF-HUNTING
IN THE HILLS TODAY.

YOU'RE
WELCOME TO
JOIN ME, OF
COURSE.



UNLESS YOU'VE
GOT A BETTER
IDEA?



MMM.
MAYBE
LATER.



BUT TELL ME--WERE YOU PLANNING
THIS MANLY JAUNT FOR BEFORE
OR AFTER YOUR SUBJECTS HONOR
YOUR ASCENSION TO THE
IMPERIAL THRONE?

≥SIGH≤ I
SUPPOSE IT WOULDN'T
BE RIGHT TO AVOID IT
ENTIRELY. BUT ALL THOSE
ENDLESS SPEECHES PUT
ME STRAIGHT TO--



MILORD ARKON!
LADY THUNDRA!
WE ARE
ASSAILED!

EH?
VIZIER,
WHAT--?



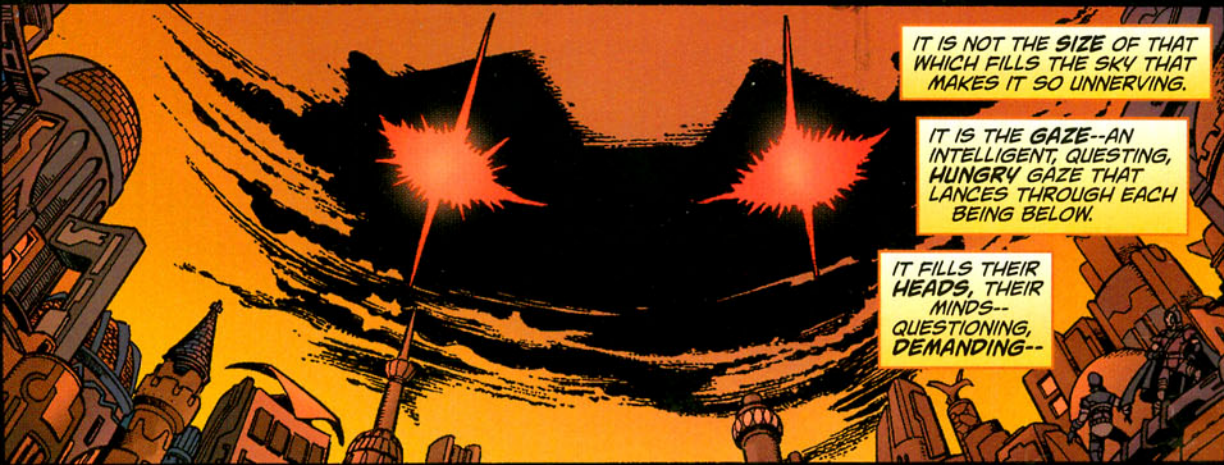
CAN YOU NOT HEAR
IT? THE RUMBLES
OF FEAR--THE CRIES
OF PANICKED
POLEMACHANS IN
THE AVENUES?

GO TO
THY WINDOWS,
IMPERION--
AND SEE!



BY THE
SACRED
RINGS--!

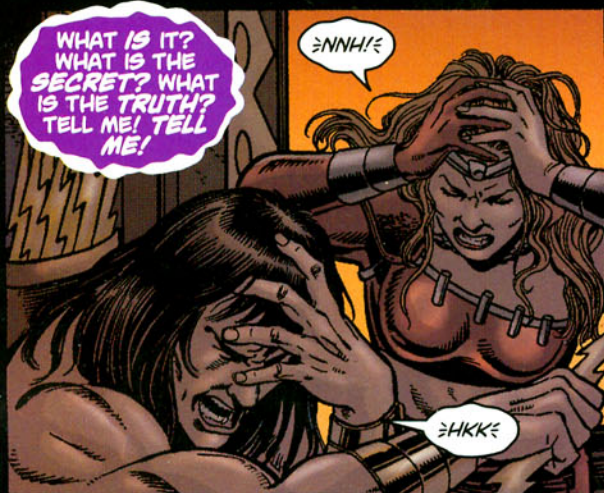




IT IS NOT THE SIZE OF THAT WHICH FILLS THE SKY THAT MAKES IT SO UNNERVING.

IT IS THE GAZE--AN INTELLIGENT, QUESTING, HUNGRY GAZE THAT LANCES THROUGH EACH BEING BELOW.

IT FILLS THEIR HEADS, THEIR MINDS-- QUESTIONING, DEMANDING--



WHAT IS IT? WHAT IS THE SECRET? WHAT IS THE TRUTH? TELL ME! TELL ME!

≡NNH!≡

≡HKKE≡



AND WHEN IT DOES NOT RECEIVE AN ANSWER, IT SEEKS--



--AND IN ITS WAKE COMES DEATH.



NO!

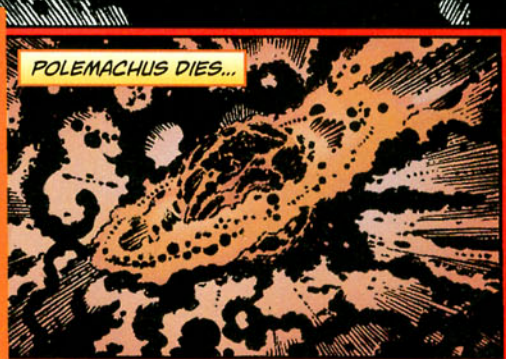
NO!

AIEEE

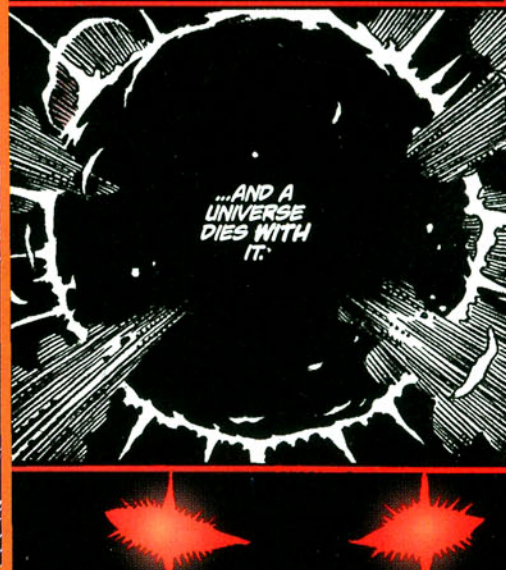


STAND, CREATURE!

STAND AND FIGHT! ARKON THE IMPERION



POLEMACHUS DIES...



...AND A UNIVERSE DIES WITH IT.



ANOTHER UNIVERSE.
OCCUPYING THE SAME
SPACE, BUT A DIFFERENT
VIBRATORY PLANE OF REALITY.

THE WORLD IS QWARD.

IT IS A WORLD THAT HAS
KNOWN MUCH WAR AS WELL.

IT KNOWS IT TODAY.

HOLD THEM
BACK, WEAPONERS!
HOLD THEM
BACK!

GODS
OF CARNAGE, WE
COMMAND THE MOST
DEVASTATING ARSENAL
IN ALL CREATION! SURELY
WE CAN DRIVE OFF
FIVE MERE--

KRAA

RAA

THOM

WHAAAA

WHAT A
DELIGHT,
POWER RING! I
HAD NO IDEA THIS
PLACE EVEN
EXISTED! HOW
DID YOU EVER
FIND IT?

EHH.
JUST BORED,
ULTRAMAN.
SCANNING THE
HEAVENS WITH
THE RING.

THOUGHT
THIS'D MAKE FOR A NICE
AFTERNOON.



AT LEAST THESE GUYS CAN PUT UP A FIGHT, EH?

MAYBE WE SHOULD LEAVE JUST ENOUGH TO REBUILD, SO WE CAN COME BACK AND--

TELL ME.

EH? DID YOU SAY SOMETHING, QUI--

OHHH...

WHAT IS THE SECRET? WHAT IS THE TRUTH?

THEY WERE THE CRIME SYNDICATE. RULERS OF THIS REALITY'S EARTH.

GH

BY THE UNHOLY!

GET--OUT OF MY HEAD, CREATURE. GET OUT OF MY HEAD-- AND THEN I'LL SHOW YOU WHAT PAIN REALLY IS.

VILLAINS.

CONQUERORS.

MONSTERS.

BUT NOW THEY, AND THE QWARDIANS, THE WORLD THEY STAND ON AND THE UNIVERSE IT FLOATS IN--

-- ARE NO MORE.

PROLOGUE ENDS.

DC COMICS & MARVEL COMICS PROUDLY PRESENT:



Once Upon a Time...



...there was a
Universe.

THE WORLD'S
GREATEST SUPER HEROES :

THE
JLA

MEET EARTH'S MIGHTIEST HEROES :

THE
AVENGERS

BOOK ONE

A JOURNEY INTO MYSTERY

4ND WITHIN
THAT
UNIVERSE...

...A YOUNG
GALAXY SPINS,
A MERE FIVE
MILLION LIGHT-
YEARS FROM
THE EDGE OF
EXPANSION.

AND IT IS
OBSERVED.

HE IS EN DWI
GAST, THE
GRANDMASTER.

HE IS AN
ELDER OF THE
UNIVERSE, ONE
OF THE OLDEST
BEINGS IN THE
COSMOS.

JUST UNDER A
BILLION YEARS
AGO, HE MADE
A BET WITH
ONE OF HIS
BRETHREN ON
THE PREDICTED
FINAL AXIAL
DECLINATION
OF THE OUTER-
MOST PLANET
OF A STAR
SYSTEM THAT
WOULD FORM
NEAR THE HUB
OF THIS GALAXY.

HIS POWER
INCALCULABLE,
HE HAS SPENT
MUCH OF HIS
EONS-LONG
LIFE IN SEARCH
OF DIVERSION--
IN COSMIC GAMES
OF CHANCE AND
SKILL, AND IN
WAGERS ON THE
OUTCOME OF
THOSE GAMES.

TODAY, THAT PLANET
WILL BE FORMED
ENOUGH--FOR THE
BET TO BE WON, OR
LOST.

ANOTHER
TWENTY
SECONDS.

ANOTHER
TEN
SECONDS.

TELL
ME!

THE WORDS ARE NOT
WORDS. HIS SENSES
ARE POWERFUL ENOUGH,
HIS MIND KEEN ENOUGH,
TO SENSE IT.

IT IS A PROBE -- A
BROAD-SPECTRUM
ENERGY PROBE THAT
SPREADS THROUGH
THE UNIVERSE, IN A
QUEST FOR ANSWERS,
FOR INFORMATION.

FOR
TRUTH.



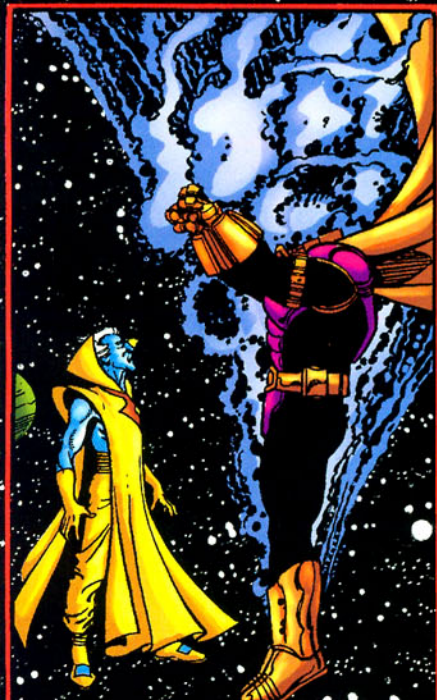
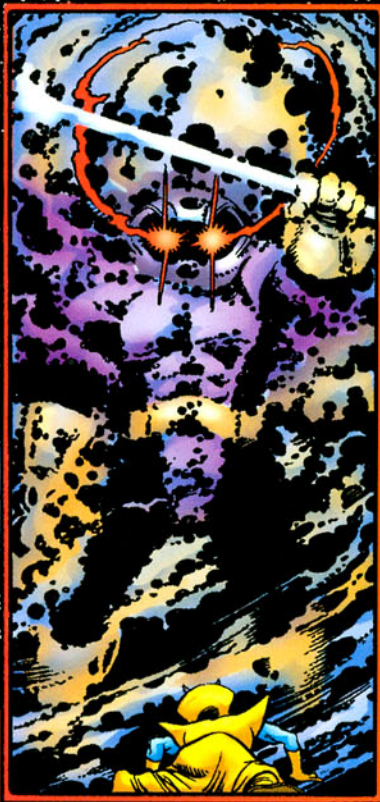
NO
FURTHER,
INTRUDER.

YOUR PROBE
THREATENS THE
VERY FABRIC OF THE
UNIVERSE. I WILL NOT
PERMIT IT FURTHER
ACCESS.

WHO
ARE YOU...
AND WHAT
DO YOU
SEEK?

THE PROBE DRAWS BACK A
MOMENT--PERPLEXED, PERHAPS,
AT THE EXPERIENCE OF BEING
EVEN MOMENTARILY DENIED?

IT PAUSES.
SHIFTS. AND...



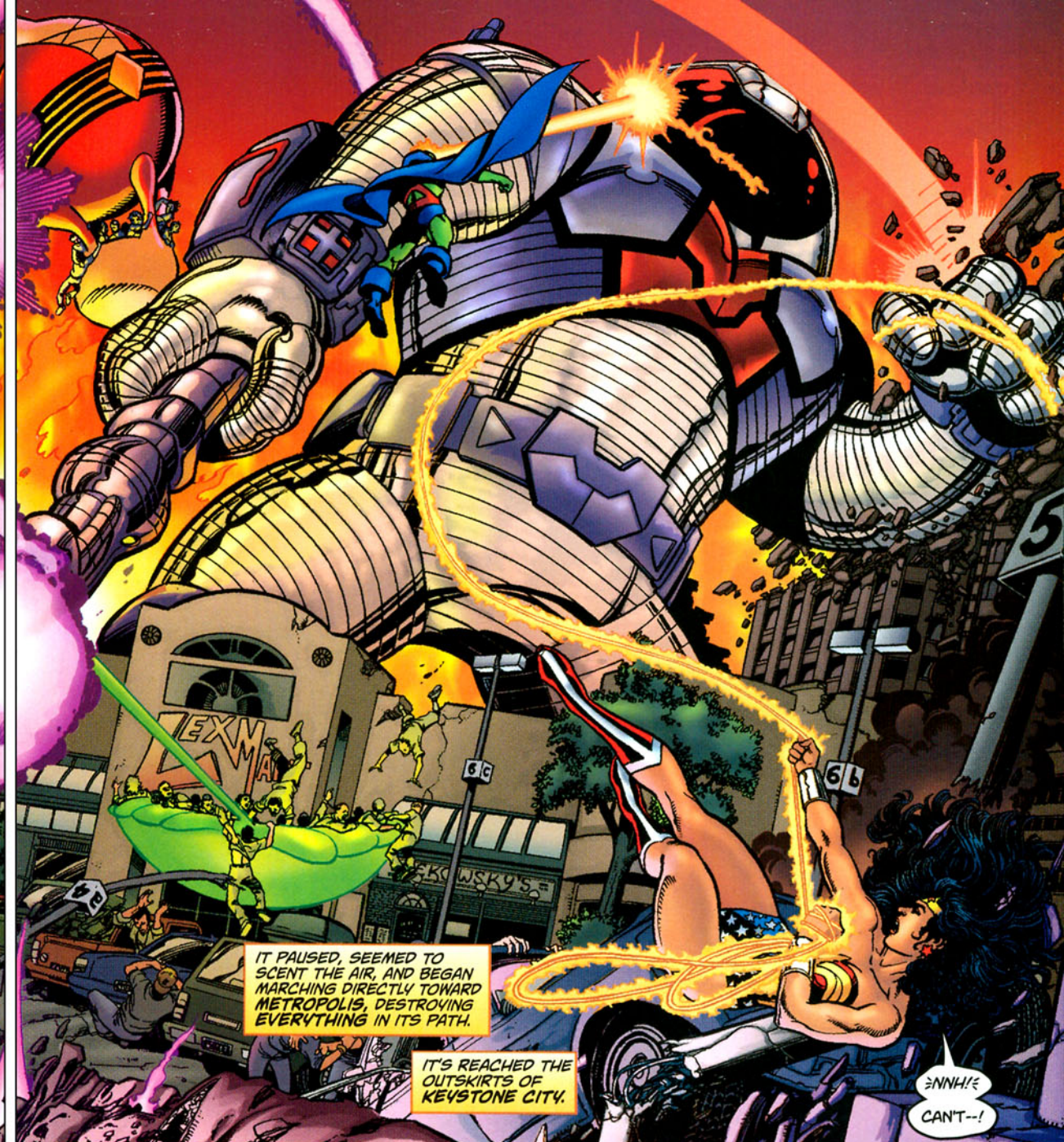
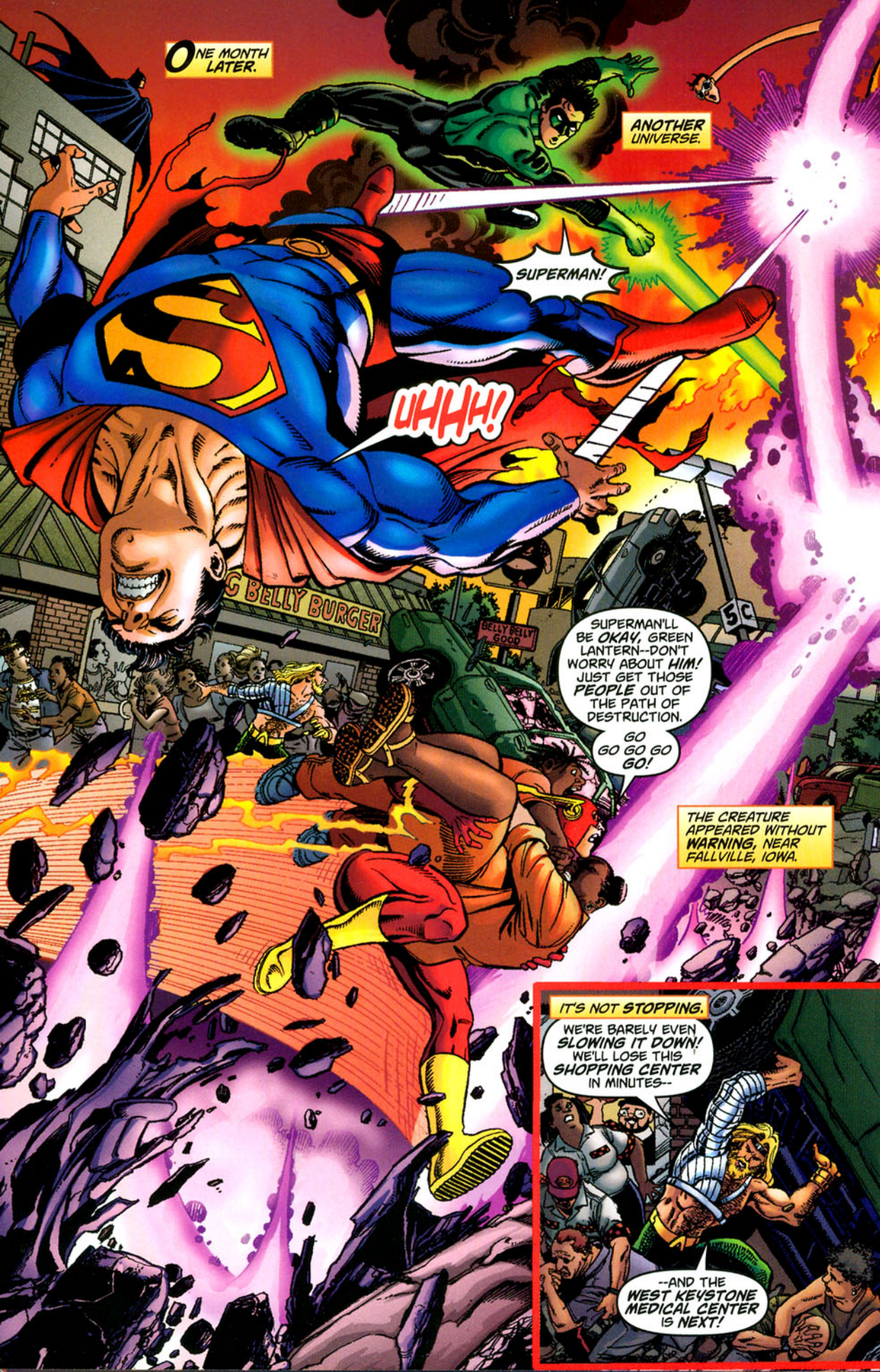
WHAT DO I
SEEK?

I SEEK
THE ULTIMATE
TRUTH.
WHO
AM I?



I AM
KRONA.

AND I
WILL NOT BE
DENIED.





...I'M THINKING. THAT STAFF...

'COURSE, WE COULD JUST FLY YOU UP THERE, HAVE YOU STARE IT INTO SUBMISSION.

WORKS ON BANK ROBBERS...

...OR DIE ALONG WITH ALL WHO OPPOSE HIM!

NO!

YOU WON'T--

PITIFUL WORMS!

TERMINUS IS YOUR MASTER NOW! BOW TO HIM...

HNHH



SUPERMAN? GATES OF ATLANTIS, THAT THING'S POWER...!

THE STAFF.

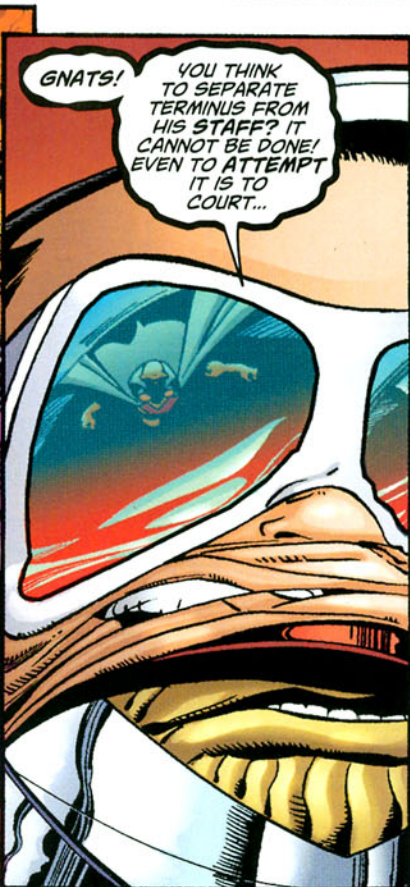
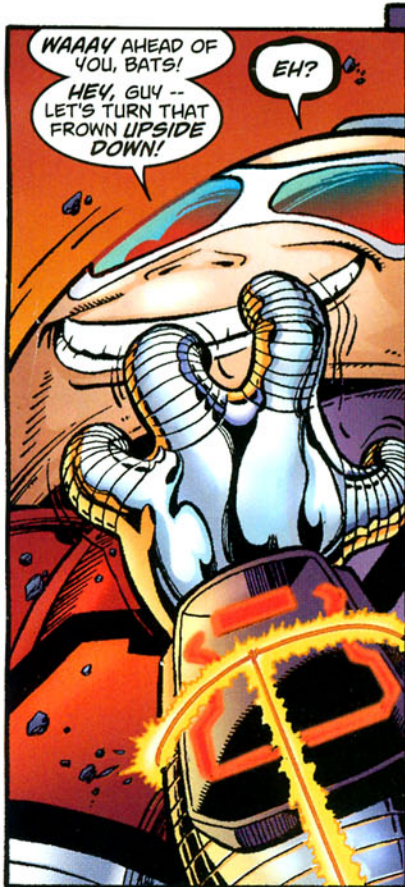
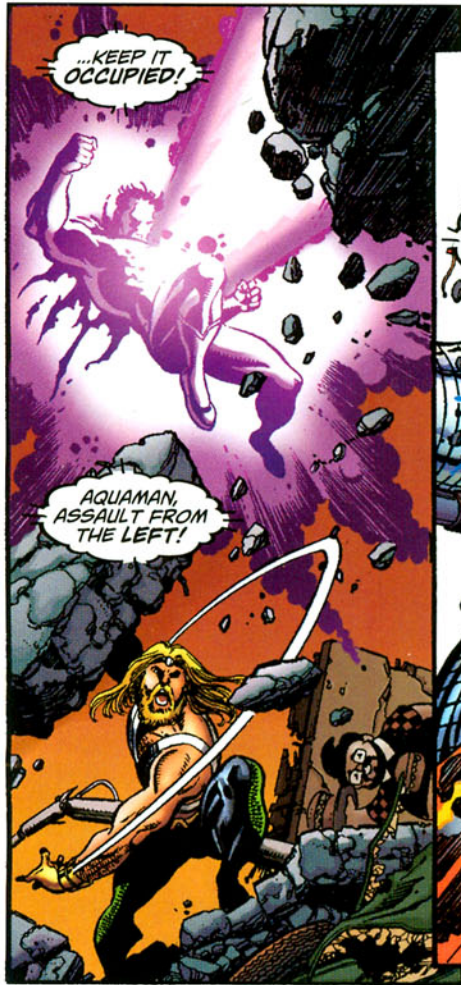
ITS POWER IS IN THE STAFF.

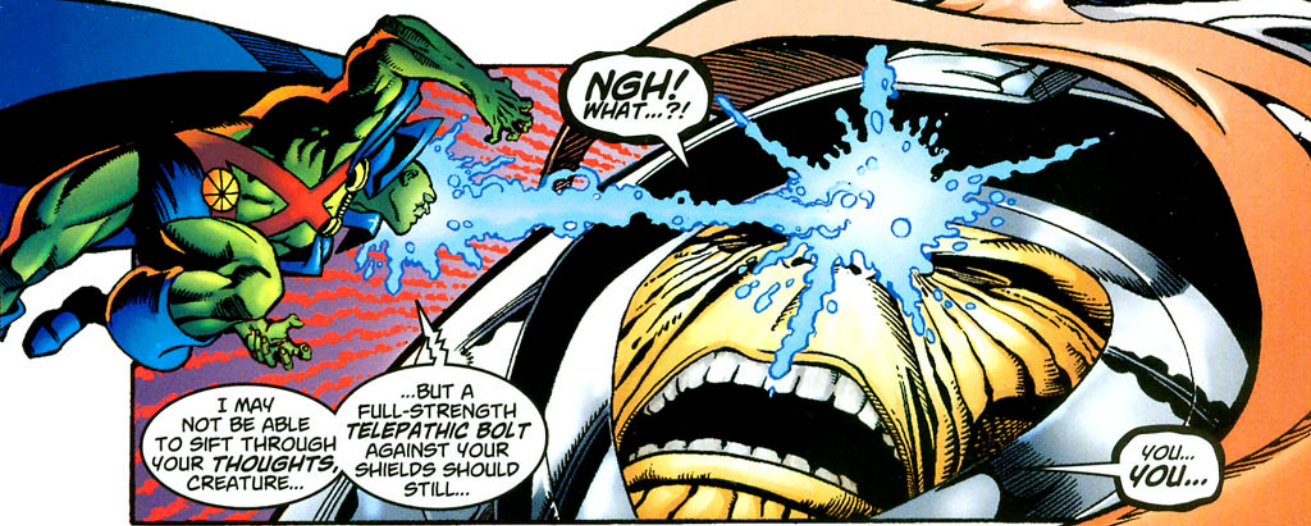
BATMAN

MARTIAN MANHUNTER, I WANT US ALL TELEPATHICALLY LINKED.

THE REST OF YOU...

WONDER WOMAN



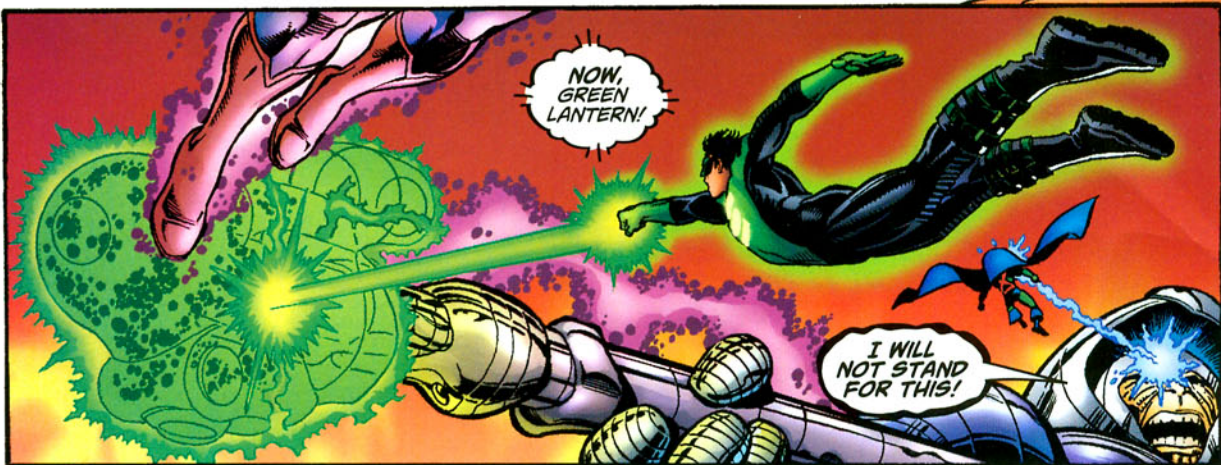


NGH!
WHAT...?!

I MAY
NOT BE ABLE
TO SIFT THROUGH
YOUR THOUGHTS,
CREATURE...

...BUT A
FULL-STRENGTH
TELEPATHIC BOLT
AGAINST YOUR
SHIELDS SHOULD
STILL...

YOU...
YOU...



NOW,
GREEN
LANTERN!

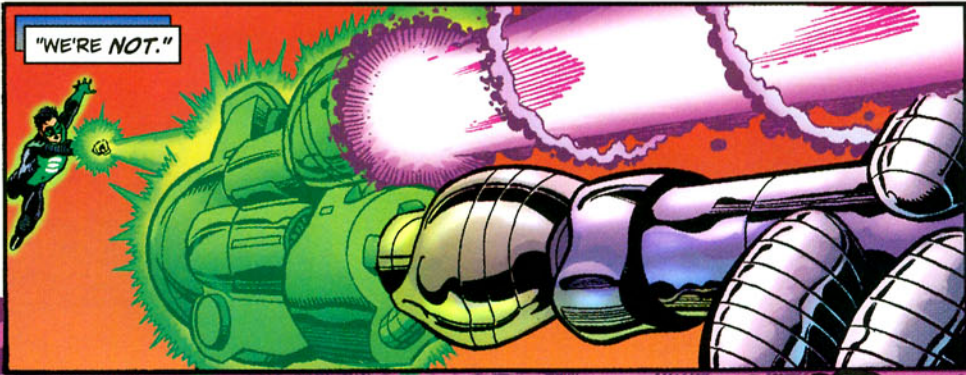
I WILL
NOT STAND
FOR THIS!



YOU WILL NOT
TAKE MY STAFF! I'LL
DESTROY YOU ALL!
DESTROY--

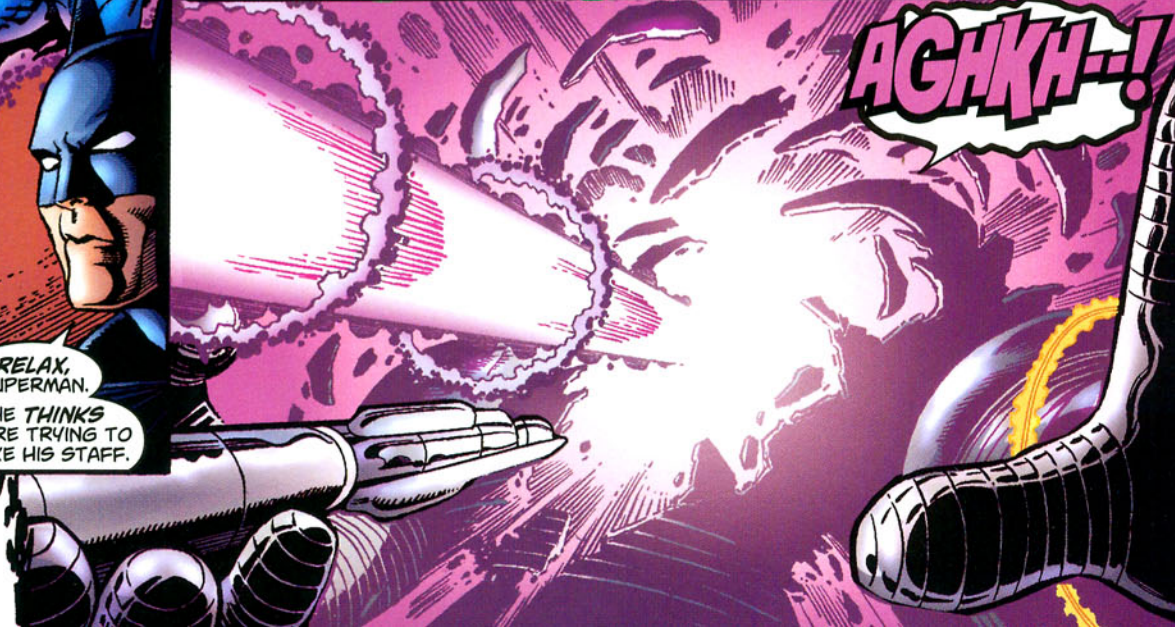
AH,
BATMAN?
HE MAY
BE--

RELAX,
SUPERMAN.
HE THINKS
WE'RE TRYING TO
TAKE HIS STAFF.



"WE'RE NOT."

AGHKKH--!





NICE.

YOU ALL
KEPT HIM SO
BUSY, I HAD TIME
TO ANALYZE HIS
ENERGY, FIGURE
OUT A WAY TO
CHANNEL
IT, AND...

...POW!
THIS TERMINUS
GUY TAKES
HIMSELF
OUT!

THAT
DOESN'T TELL US
WHO HE IS OR WHY
HE'S HERE, LANTERN.
I'D STILL LIKE
TO KNOW...



THE BEING IS ALIEN
TO THIS PLANE OF
EXISTENCE.

IT DOES
NOT BELONG
HERE...

HAL...?

THEY ARE THE
JUSTICE LEAGUE
OF AMERICA...

...THEIR WORLD'S
GREATEST SUPER-
HEROES...



...BUT STILL,
THIS NEW
MANIFESTATION
STOPS THEM IN
THEIR TRACKS.

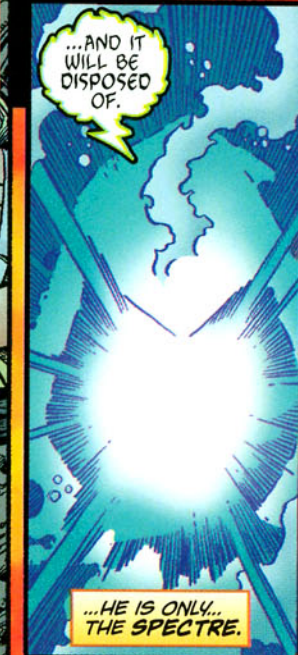
ONCE, HE WAS
HAL JORDAN.
A HERO. AN
ALLY. A FRIEND.

NOW, HOWEVER...



YOU NEED
NOT CONCERN
YOURSELF,
SUPERMAN.

GOOD
LORD, THAT
VOICE!
IT'S--!



...AND IT
WILL BE
DISPOSED
OF.

...HE IS ONLY...
THE SPECTRE.



MAN, I'LL
NEVER GET USED
TO THAT. I'VE HAD
COFFEE WITH HIM,
HUNG OUT WITH HIM,
AND NOW...NOW HE'S
WHAT, THE HAND
OF GOD?

WE KNOW
HOW YOU FEEL,
KYLE. BELIEVE
ME, WE
KNOW.

ENOUGH.

THERE ARE
STILL PEOPLE
TRAPPED IN THE
RUBBLE, JUSTICE
LEAGUE. LET'S
GO.



ANOTHER
UNIVERSE.

NEW YORK CITY.

IT WAS ONLY TWENTY
MINUTES AGO IT
APPEARED, LOOMING
OVER MANHATTAN,
SPILLING ITS NOXIOUS
SPAWN BY THE
HUNDREDS, THE
THOUSANDS.

SHE-HULK?
JEN,
DON'T--!

THE MIGHTY
AVENGERS
WERE CALLED
OUT TO DEAL
WITH IT...



...BUT INSTEAD...

THE
STARFISH--
THEY'VE GOTTEN
YELLOWJACKET AND
TRIATHLON! THEY'RE
TAKING PEOPLE
OVER--
--CONTROLLING
THEIR MINDS!

JUST DON'T
LET THEM GET NEAR
YOUR FACES, AVENGERS!
DON'T LET THEM GET
NEAR YOU--

SORRY,
HONEY!

--OR
THEY'LL TAKE
YOU OVER,
TOO!



A FOR ANALYSIS, THOR--
BUT NOTHING WE HIT IT WITH
IS MAKING IT EVEN FLINCH!

IRON MAN!
JACK
OF HEARTS!

YON
CYCLOPEAN
SEA-BEAST IS
THE WELLSPRING
OF THIS THREAT!
STRIKE AT THE
SOURCE--AND
END IT!

AND WITH EVERY
SECOND THAT PASSES...
...MORE OF THESE
THINGS FALL!

GET
AWAY!

HOW DO WE STOP
THESE THINGS? HOW
DO WE EVEN FIGHT
THEM?!

I DON'T KNOW,
WARBIRD...JUST KEEP
AT IT!

SORRY,
SIR.

HOPEFULLY,
YOU'LL BE ABLE
TO THANK ME
FOR THIS,
LATER!

WE MUST ADOPT A NEW
STRATEGY, AVENGERS.
FOR EVERY PARASITE
WE DESTROY, DOZENS
MORE FALL.

WE CANNOT STOP
THEM ALL, AND
EVENTUALLY, EVEN
OUR MIGHTIEST
WILL--

OH, NO.

THEY GOT THOR.
BAD, BAD NEWS.

SPLASH

UHH!

PIETRO?

PIETRO, FIGHT IT!

YOU CAN
DO IT--YOU'RE
STRONG! YOU
CAN BEAT IT,
BREAK
FREE!

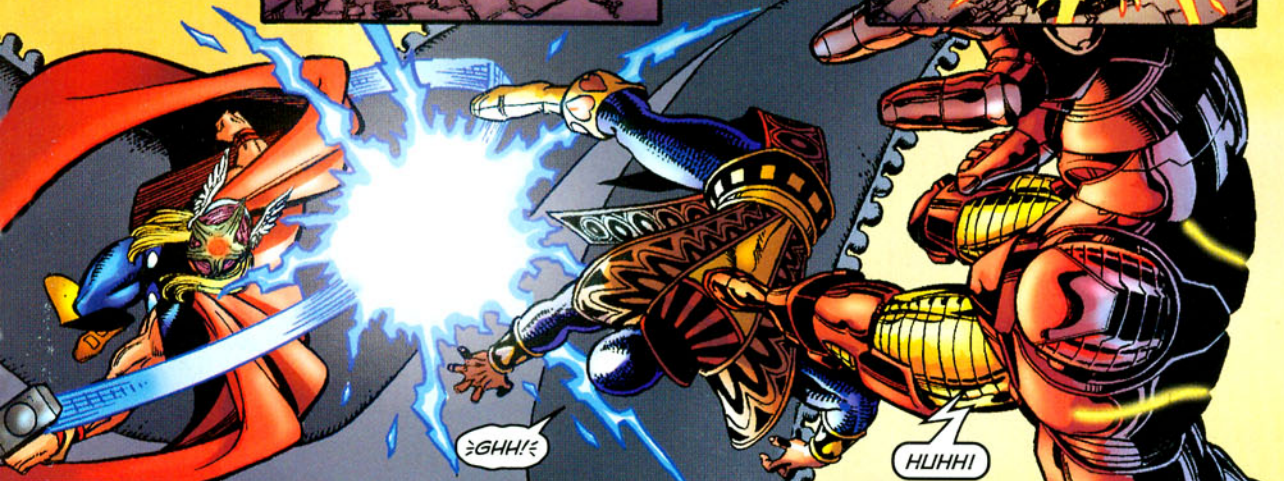
I'M SURE
YOUR BROTHER'S
DOING HIS **BEST**,
WANDA. BUT NOW
THAT YOU'VE SLOWED
HIM DOWN--MAYBE
HE COULD USE A
LITTLE HELP.

BZAT

GO, WARBIRD!
I'LL HANDLE
THINGS
HERE!

GET THAT
THING OFF
QUICKSILVER'S
FACE--WE
NEED HIS
POWER!

YOU
GOT IT,
CAP.



DON'T KNOW IF IT'S
DEAD...OR JUST
UNCONSCIOUS...

BUT AT LEAST IT'S
LETTING...

SPLHKK--!

I WAS...
I WAS **LINKED**...
TAPPED INTO ALL
OF THEM, INTO IT!

IT THINKS...
THINKS OF ITSELF
AS THE **STAR
CONQUEROR!**
ALL IT WANTS...
IS **TOTAL
CONTROL!**

TIDES OF
ORDER, YOU
SAY?

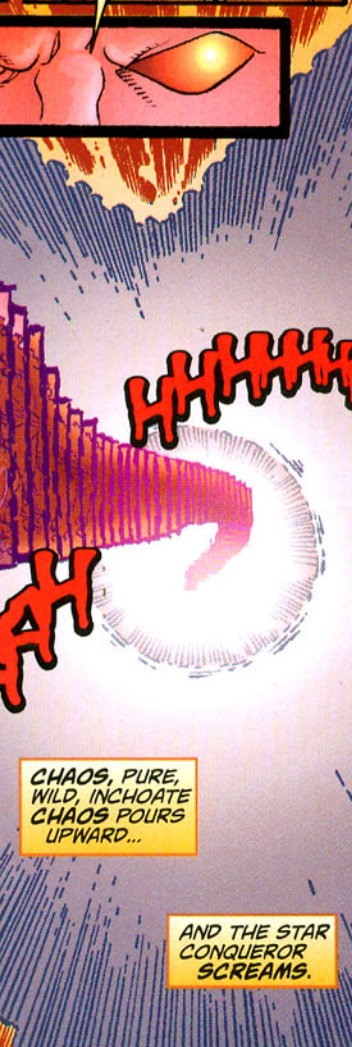
THEN
PERHAPS
WE CAN
DEFEAT
IT.

I HAVE A
THOUGHT...

ITS MIND...
SO VAST, SO
CALM...SLOWLY,
IRRESISTIBLY
POWERFUL, LIKE
A GREAT
OCEAN!

TIDES OF
ORDER...OF
CONTROL...WE
CAN'T HOPE TO
DEFEAT IT!





CRASH!!!





AVENGERS MANSION.

--THOUGHT YOU MIGHT WANT TO KNOW ABOUT THIS.



I'VE BEEN AT THE DEEP SPACE MONITORING STATION IN THE ASTEROID BELT--

--CHECKING IN ON THE SENSOR STATIONS I'VE SET UP THROUGH KNOWN SPACE.

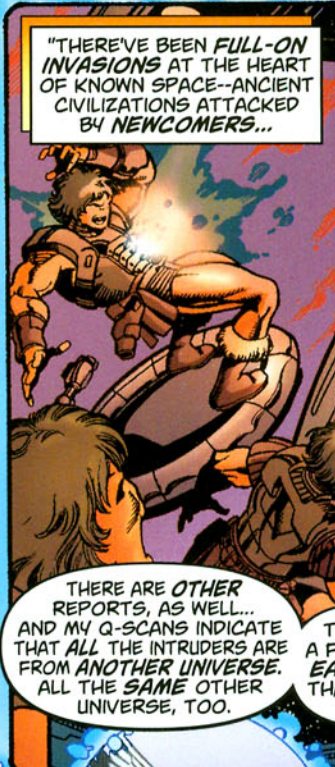


AND I'VE BEEN GETTING, WELL...
...TROUBLING DATA.



"AN INTRUDER IN THE HEART OF THE SHI'AR EMPIRE, FOR INSTANCE. JUST APPEARED, WITHOUT RHYME OR REASON.

"AND EVEN THEIR IMPERIAL GUARD'S BEEN HARD-PRESSED TO CONTAIN HIM.



"THERE'VE BEEN **FULL-ON INVASIONS** AT THE HEART OF KNOWN SPACE--ANCIENT CIVILIZATIONS ATTACKED BY **NEWCOMERS**...

"...WHO SEEM TO HAVE POPPED OUT OF NOWHERE."

THERE ARE **OTHER** REPORTS, AS WELL... AND MY Q-SCANS INDICATE THAT **ALL** THE INTRUDERS ARE FROM **ANOTHER UNIVERSE**. ALL THE **SAME** OTHER UNIVERSE, TOO.

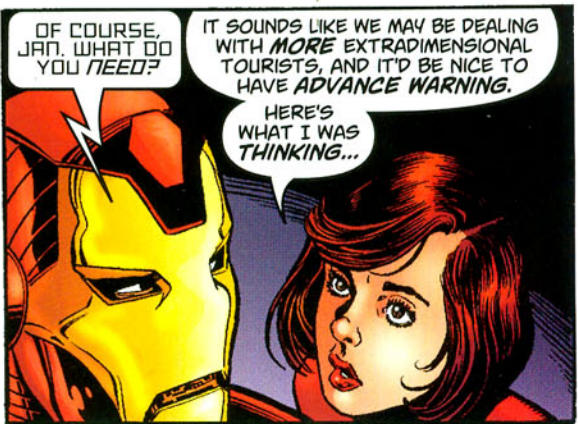
THERE WAS A FLARE-UP ON EARTH LESS THAN AN HOUR AGO...



YES, WE CAN FILL YOU IN ON THAT ONE.



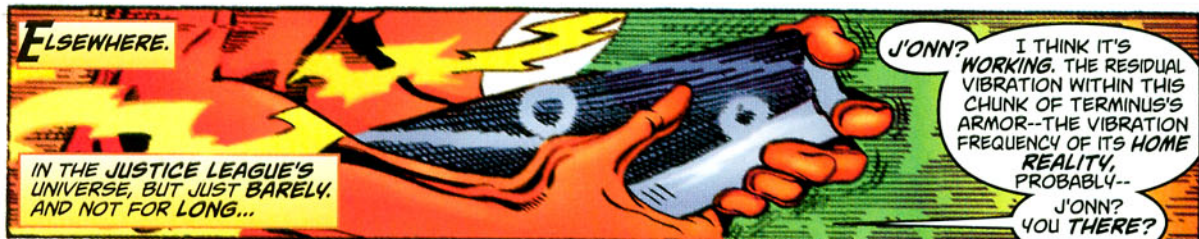
AH, IRON MAN? THOR AND CAP CAN PROBABLY HANDLE THAT, SO...



OF COURSE, JARVIS. WHAT DO YOU NEED?

IT SOUNDS LIKE WE MAY BE DEALING WITH **MORE** EXTRADIMENSIONAL TOURISTS, AND IT'D BE NICE TO HAVE **ADVANCE WARNING**.

HERE'S WHAT I WAS THINKING...



ELSEWHERE.

IN THE JUSTICE LEAGUE'S
UNIVERSE, BUT JUST BARELY.
AND NOT FOR LONG...

J'ONN?

I THINK IT'S
WORKING. THE RESIDUAL
VIBRATION WITHIN THIS
CHUNK OF TERMINUS'S
ARMOR--THE VIBRATION
FREQUENCY OF ITS HOME
REALITY,
PROBABLY--

J'ONN?
YOU THERE?



I AM
HERE,
FLASH.

OKAY.
JUST A LITTLE
NERVOUS.

THIS WAS MORE
BARRY'S KIND OF THING
THAN MINE, BUT I'VE DONE
IT A TIME OR TWO. I CAN
FEEL IT, I'M MATCHING THE
FREQUENCY WITH MY
SUPER-SPEED--

BUT IT--IT HURTS.
THERE'S RESISTANCE--
HARD TO--TO ATTUNE--



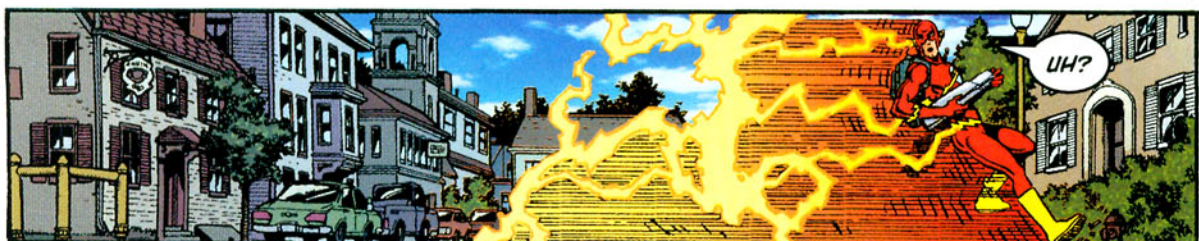
STRIVE, FLASH. IF YOU
CAN REACH TERMINUS'S
REALITY, YOU MAY BE ABLE
TO GATHER VALUABLE
INFORMATION, TO ALLOW
US TO ASSESS THE
THREAT.

I WILL MAINTAIN
MENTAL CONTACT
AS LONG AS I...

OH, GREAT.

C'MON, WALLY.
PUSH...RUN THROUGH
THE PAIN. THIS WORLD...
IT'S FIGHTING BACK...
DOESN'T WANT TO LET
YOU IN. BUT YOU'RE...
THE FLASH...

AND NONE...
NONE OF THE
FLASHES...HAVE...
EVER...GIVEN...



UH?



WELL. NOT EXACTLY THE
MALEVOLENT LAIR OF
EVIL FORCES I'D BEEN
IMAGINING, IS IT? THIS
IS...KINDA NICE.

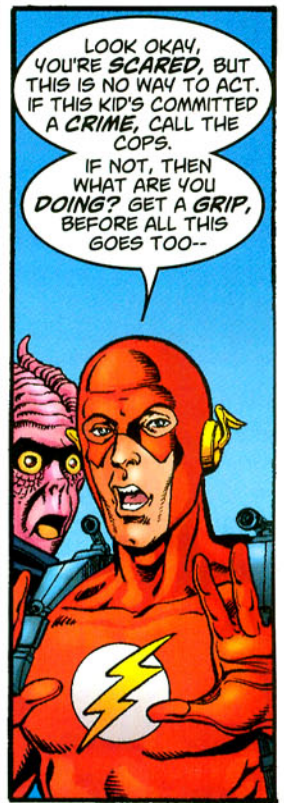
THIS IS
WHERE KEYSTONE
IS, BACK HOME,
BUT THIS ISN'T EVEN
A CITY. JUST A
SLEEPY RIVER
TOWN.



I'LL JUST
GET A FEW
WIDEBAND
MOLECULAR
SCANS,
TAKE A LOOK
AR--



HUH?



THE JLA WATCHTOWER.
ON THEIR EARTH'S MOON.

UH-OH.
THANAGAR
UNDER ATTACK
BY GREEN
UGLIES--

--MONGUL
GETTING PIG-
PILED BY, UH, BY
WHATEVER THOSE
ARE--

I MEAN,
NOT THAT IT COULD
HAPPEN TO A NICER
GUY, BUT THIS DOESN'T
LOOK GOOD...

YOU
WERE RIGHT,
BATMAN.

IT'S NOT
AN ISOLATED
INCIDENT. SO
WHAT IS
IT?

WE
WON'T KNOW
UNTIL FLASH GETS
BACK, AND WE HAVE
MORE DATA. COULD BE
ACCIDENTAL, COULD
BE INTENTIONAL--
WE CAN'T BE
SURE.

WE WILL
STOP IT, BATMAN.
WHATEVER IT IS. IF IT
IS A COSMIC RIFT,
WE'LL HEAL IT...

AND IF
IT'S AN INVASION,
WE MEET IT, AND
REPEL IT. FLASH'S
SCANS WILL--

UH, GUYS?
GUYS, HE'S
BACK.

MAN,
WALLY, WHAT
HAPPENED
TO YOU?

TELL YOU
LATER. MEANWHILE...
DON'T MESS WITH
ANGRY ROTARIANS.

I'LL SAY THIS MUCH,
THOUGH. IF I LIVED OVER
THERE? I'D WANT TO
GET OUT, TOO.
I BARELY DID...AS MY
POWERS FADED, MY
VIBRATIONAL RATE WENT
BACK TO NORMAL...AND
I POPPED BACK INTO
KEYSTONE.

STILL, THE PEOPLE
THERE...VIKES! THERE
WAS THIS KID, AND--

RTBRR!

HUH?



KIND OF...*PASSIVE* FOR AN ALIEN INVADER, ISN'T HE?

BUT STILL AN *ENIGMA*, KYLE. I'M REACHING OUT MENTALLY, BUT RECEIVE ONLY A SENSE OF...*CURIOSITY*?

WHO ARE YOU? WHY HAVE YOU COME?

QUI ÊTES-VOUS? WARUM SIND SIE GEKOMMEN?

ἦν ἄνθρωπος ὁ ὅτι ἦν ἄνθρωπος ἦν ἄνθρωπος

ENOUGH.
IF HE WILL NOT
SPEAK, LET US
GO OUTSIDE--

--AND
DEMAND
ANSWERS
OF HIM!

HOLD IT, AQUAMAN. WE HAVE **SOMEONE ELSE** APPROACHING--

--COMING FROM--



"--THERE!"

DO NOT
WORRY ABOUT
THE WATCHER.
HE RARELY
ACTS--

--CHOOSING
INSTEAD ONLY
TO OBSERVE AND
RECORD.

HE
MANIFESTS
FOR THE MOST
MOMENTOUS
EVENTS--

LANTERN.
CONTAIN
HIM.



--LIKE THIS
ONE.

ISN'T IT ALWAYS THE WAY? YOU
GO DAYS WITHOUT SEEING
ANY GIANT INEXPLICABLE
COSMIC GUYS--

--AND THEN
TWO OR THREE
ARRIVE ALL
AT ONCE!



I'M
SUPERMAN.
I GREET YOU
IN THE NAME OF
THE JUSTICE
LEAGUE.

WHO ARE
YOU AND WHAT
BRINGS YOU TO
OUR WORLD?



I AM KNOWN AS THE
GRANDMASTER.
I HAIL FROM THE
SAME UNIVERSE AS
THE VARIOUS...
INTRUDERS YOU
ARE CONCERNED
ABOUT.

BUT IT IS NOT
IN MY NATURE TO
SEE ANY CONTEST
BE AN UNEVEN
ONE--



--SO I HAVE
COME TO TELL
YOU OF THE PERIL
YOU FACE.

OOO,
SPACE
REFEREE.

J'ONN?
CAN YOU
VERIFY
THAT?



SADLY,
SUPERMAN, I
CANNOT.

FOR THE
THIRD TIME TODAY,
MY POWERS CANNOT
REACH INTO A MIND
THAT STANDS
BEFORE ME.
IT IS
BEGINNING TO
GROW ANNOYING.



PERHAPS
THE GOLDEN
LASSO OF
GAEA?

NO ONE WHO
LIVES CAN BE
ENCIRCLED BY IT
AND STILL SPEAK
FALSEHOOD.



OF
COURSE.

SOON...

ARE YOU
NOW CONTENT
THAT I SPEAK
THE TRUTH?
VERY WELL.

WHAT YOU'VE
SEEN THUS FAR IS
ONLY THE **BEGINNING**.
YOUR WORLD AND MINE
FACE DEVASTATION,
DANGER...EVEN UTTER
DESTRUCTION.

I DO NOT
WARN YOU
LIGHTLY.

THE **BARRIERS** BETWEEN
OUR WORLDS HAVE
BEEN DELIBERATELY
WEAKENED.

NEITHER WORLD
WILL **SURVIVE** THE
STRAIN.

BUT THERE IS
ONE WAY TO LESSEN--
OR EVEN **PREVENT**--
THE DAMAGE.

WAIT. THAT WAS
"WEAKENED"?

TWELVE ITEMS...

ITEMS OF
POWER, SIX FROM
EACH UNIVERSE.
THEY MUST BE
ASSEMBLED...

...OR
COUNTLESS
BILLIONS WILL
DIE.

THE
ETERNITY
BOOK.

OOH, I
KNOW, I
KNOW!

METAMORPHO'S
WHAT'SIT-- THE
ORB OF RA!

HM?
THE **BELL**,
THE **WHEEL**,
AND THE
JAR?

THAT'S
THE **MEDUSA**
MASK!

THE
SPEAR OF
DESTINY.

MY--MY
POWER
BATTERY?!

AND I ASSURE YOU, THE ITEMS FROM MY REALITY ARE **EQUALLY POWERFUL**. ONLY **THESE** ITEMS, BROUGHT TOGETHER, CAN END THE DANGER. **FAIL** TO ASSEMBLE THEM--

--AND A **UNIVERSE** DIES.

NOT GOOD ENOUGH. WHAT CAUSED THIS THREAT?

HOW WILL THE ITEMS BE USED? WHO WILL WIELD THEM, AND--

MY APOLOGIES, I HAVE TOLD ALL I WILL TELL.

BUT I PLACE IN YOUR MINDS THE **LOCATION** THE ITEMS, IN THE TWIN WORLDS.

WHAT YOU DO WITH THE KNOWLEDGE IS UP TO YOU. JUST BE **WARNED--**

--THERE WILL BE **OTHERS** SEEKING THEM.

GONE.

SO NOW WHAT? DO WE BELIEVE HIM? SOME GUY WE'VE NEVER MET, NEVER HEARD OF BEFORE? HE CAN POP INTO THE WATCHTOWER AT WILL--

--CAN HE BEAT THE LASSO, TOO? AND WHO ARE THESE OTHERS?

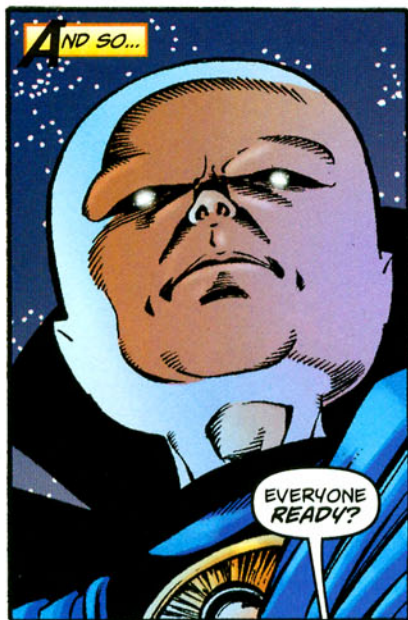
WHAT HE SAID WAS THE TRUTH--I KNOW THAT MUCH. BUT THERE WAS MORE BEHIND IT, SOMETHING HE WASN'T SAYING...

I DON'T LIKE IT. DOING SOMETHING WE DON'T UNDERSTAND, JUST BECAUSE SOMEONE TELLS US TO.

AS OPPOSED TO DOING THE TELLING, HM?

STILL, WE ARE BEING INVADED BY THIS OTHER WORLD. AND BELIEVE ME, FROM WHAT I SAW, IT'S NOT A NICE PLACE.

WE HAVE TO INVESTIGATE, AT THE VERY LEAST.



AND SO...

EVERYONE
READY?



OKAY. I CAN'T GO,
OBVIOUSLY, NOT
WITHOUT LOSING
MY POWER
AGAIN--
--AND
SOMEONE'S
GOT TO
STAY AND KEEP
BIG BALDY HERE
COMPANY--



--BUT THE ATOM'S
AGREED TO TAKE
MY PLACE ON THE
FIELD TEAM, FOR
THIS MISSION AT
LEAST.

ARE YOU
KIDDING?

ANOTHER
UNIVERSE,
DIFFERENT
PHYSICAL
LAWS? LET
ME AT IT!



YEAH,
THAT'S
ANOTHER
THING...

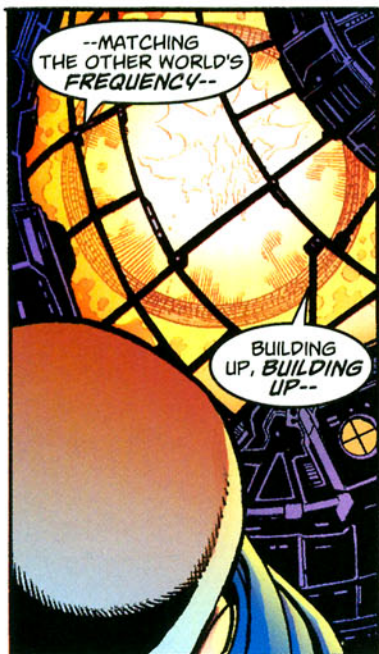
YES, THE SPEED
FORCE MIGHT NOT BE
THE ONLY THING THAT'S
DIFFERENT OVER
THERE. WE'LL
BE ALERT.



YEAH, SORRY.
THAT PLACE JUST
GIVES ME THE
WILLIES.

OKAY, I'M
SETTING UP A
VIBRATIONAL
FIELD--

--TRANSFERRING
THE EFFECTS TO
YOU--



--MATCHING
THE OTHER WORLD'S
FREQUENCY--

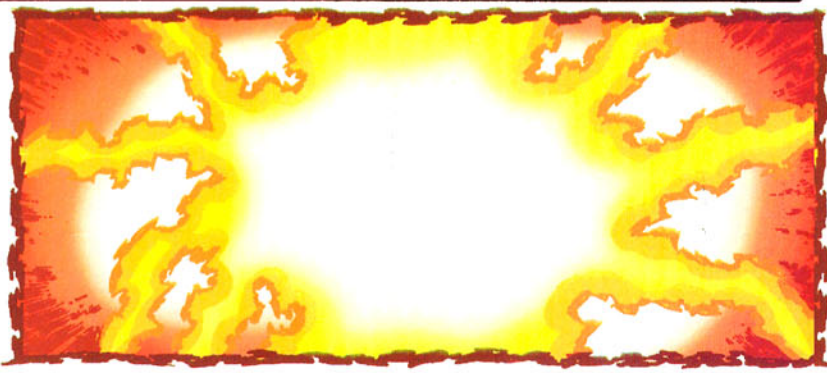
BUILDING
UP, BUILDING
UP--

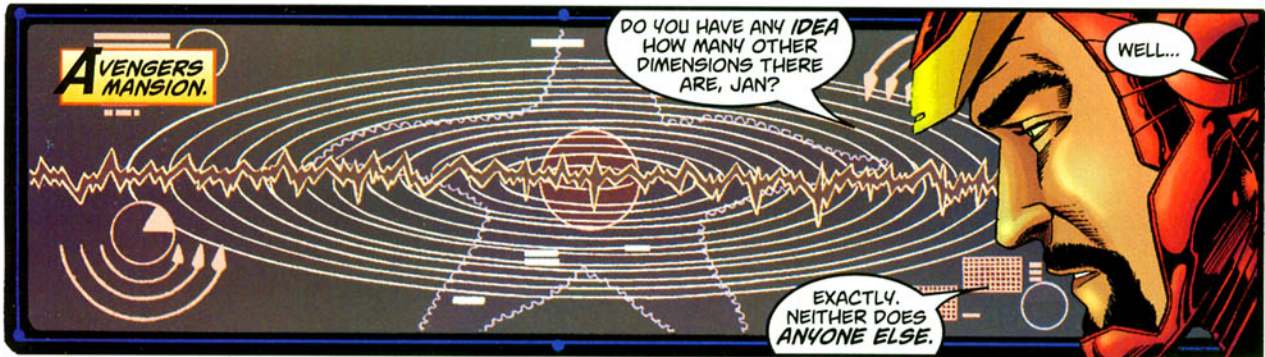


==NNH!==
MAN, I TELL
YOU--

--IF THIS IS
==NNH!== WEAKENED, I
WOULDN'T WANT TO TRY
THIS WHEN IT'S FULL
STRENGTH--

--OKAY,
OKAY--





AVENGERS MANSION.

DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA HOW MANY OTHER DIMENSIONS THERE ARE, JAN?

WELL...

EXACTLY. NEITHER DOES ANYONE ELSE.

I'VE BEEN TRYING TO CREATE A WARNING SYSTEM THAT'D TELL US IF THE **TIME-BARRIER** HAS BEEN BREACHED, AND **DIMENSIONAL BARRIERS** WERE NEXT...

STILL, A ONE-DIMENSIONAL ALARM IS POSSIBLE. I'VE GOT DATA FROM **QUASAR**, AND JACK OF HEARTS **SCANALYZED** THE STAR CONQUEROR BEFORE IT FLED--

--SO I'M RIGGING A SYSTEM TO SCAN FOR THE APPEARANCE OF THAT **ONE PARTICULAR ENERGY-SIGNATURE--**

I HAVE **FULL FAITH** IN YOU, TONY. I'M SURE YOU--HEY, LOOK WHO'S HERE!

I SENT OUT A CALL FOR **RESERVISTS** AND ANY **INACTIVE AVENGERS** WHO COULD HELP US OUT ON THIS ONE--AND GUESS WHO CAME **A'RUNNING?**

YOU KNOW YOU GUYS CAN'T GET ALONG **WITHOUT ME.**

I'M **GONE** FOR A WHILE, AND YOU START HAVING TROUBLE WITH **ANGRY SEAFOOD?**

I MEAN, **REALLY!**



HOW'S IT GOING, TONY?

GOOD TO SEE YOU, HAWKEYE. C'MERE...

NOT SURE, BUT I THINK I'VE...



YOU'RE JUST TESTING THAT THING, RIGHT? THAT'S JUST A TEST.

NO, HAWKEYE. **WHATEVER** WE'RE DEALING WITH...

"...IT'S HERE."



THAT RUINED CITY--THE BUILDINGS, THE CARVINGS--IF WE COULD CHECK IT OUT FOR A MINUTE OR TWO...

IT DID LOOK INTERESTING, ATOM. IMPOSSIBLY OLD, PROBABLY PRE-HUMAN...

WE DON'T HAVE TIME.

WE'LL SPLIT UP. DO A QUICK RECONNAISSANCE, FIND OUT SOMETHING ABOUT THIS WORLD. THEN MEET AT THE SITE OF THE FIRST ARTIFACT.

STAY MIND-LINKED. AND JUST OBSERVE AND REPORT. NO GETTING INVOLVED.

OKAY, AQUAMAN, YOU AND ME...

DIANA, ATOM...

BYEEE! DON'T FORGET TO WRITE...!

LATVERIA.
WE'RE INVISIBLE, RIGHT?

INVISIBLE AND INAUDIBLE. WHAT IS THIS?

DICSERET DOOM

THEY CHEER FOR HIM. SING HIS PRAISES... UNDER THREAT OF DEATH!

THIS IS NO WAY FOR A MONARCH TO ACT! WE SHOULD...

SHOULD NOTHING, AQUAMAN. JUST OBSERVE AND MOVE ON.

GENOSHA.

IT'S LIKE--LIKE WALKING THROUGH HIROSHIMA. THE DEVASTATION!

WHO COULD DO THIS, KNOWING WHAT IT WOULD...?

A SCAN OF NEIGHBORING NATIONS REVEALS THESE PEOPLE WERE BOMBED FOR BEING GENETIC MUTANTS. FOR THE CRIME OF BEING DIFFERENT.

LEAVE IT, J'ONN. MOVE ON.

MICHIGAN.

LOOK AT THIS! THE DESTRUCTION, THE CARNAGE--THE ARMY OBVIOUSLY COULDN'T STOP THAT THING!

MAYBE...

WE STAY WITH THE PLAN, SUPERMAN. DON'T GET INVOLVED.

NEW YORK.

HENH.

DRUG DEALERS. NEVER COULD STAND THEM, EVEN BACK WHEN I WAS A CROOK.

BETTER GET BACK TO--

--TO--



BATS?



HEL-LO? WERE YOU EVEN LISTENING TO YOURSELF?!



"STICK TO THE PLAN," HE SAYS. "OBSERVE AND MOVE ON," HE SAYS.

BUT DOES HE FOLLOW THE PLAN? OR DOES HE SPEND TWENTY MINUTES BEATING UP SOME LOON IN KEVLAR TO SAVE SOME DRUG DEALERS?!

FRANKLY, PLAS, I WISH WE'D DONE THE SAME.

I AGREE.

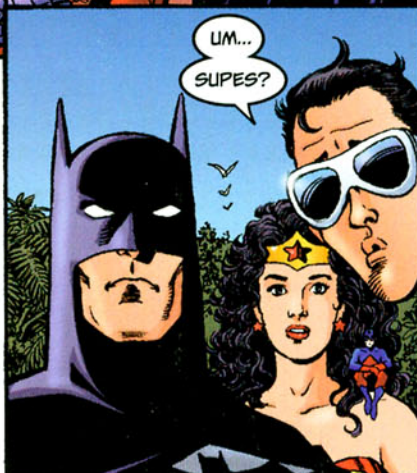
BUT WE CAN'T LET OURSELVES BE DISTRACTED FROM OUR MISSION. PEOPLE DIED IN KEYSTONE CITY. OUR WORLD IS ENDANGERED, TOO.



THIS WORLD. THIS WORLD!

IT'S LUSH, IT'S ALIVE--THERE ARE HEROES HERE TOO, FROM WHAT WE'VE DISCOVERED. HOW CAN THEY ALLOW THIS? HOW CAN THEY STAND FOR IT?

DON'T THEY CARE?



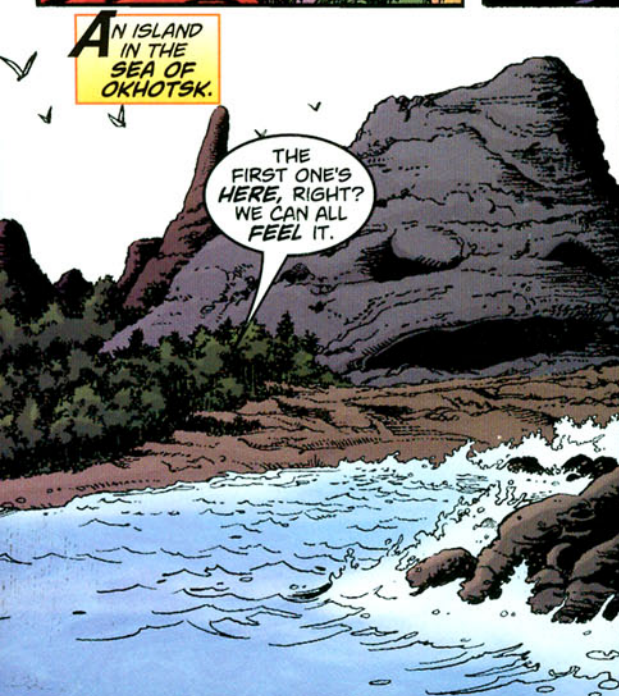
UM...
SUPES?



LET'S GET THOSE ARTIFACTS. I DON'T TRUST THE PEOPLE HERE.

I'LL FEEL BETTER IF WE DECIDE HOW TO USE THEM.

AN ISLAND IN THE SEA OF OKHOTSK.



THE FIRST ONE'S HERE, RIGHT? WE CAN ALL FEEL IT.



AND I TELL YOU, IT'S FREAKY--IT'S LIKE KNOWING WHERE YOUR SOCKS ARE, BUT YOU'VE NEVER OWNED ANY S--

--WHOA! EARTHQUAKE!



NO, PLASTIC MAN! THERE!

LOOK!



HUURR

GRAA

RULULU

FIGURES. WE GOTTA FIGHT THE MONSTERS TO GET THE DINGUS, RIGHT? I DESIGNED A VIDEO GAME LIKE THIS ONCE.

THOSE ARE SOME GREAT-LOOKING MONSTERS, THOUGH...

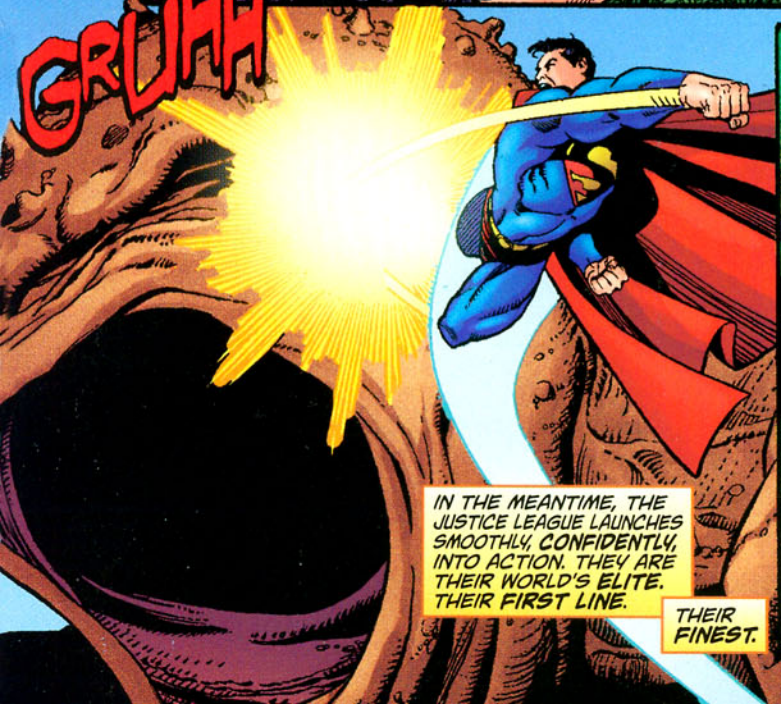
MAYBE WE DON'T, KYLE.



BATMAN--THE ARTIFACT'S THAT WAY. SEE IF YOU CAN GO AROUND THE MONSTERS--RECOVER IT WITHOUT ENGAGING THEM.

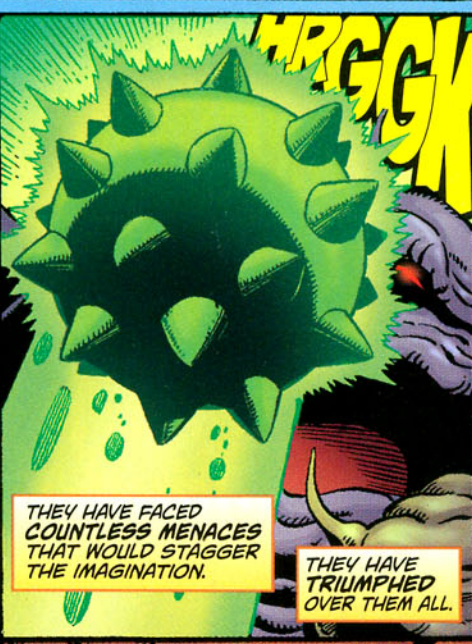
AND IN THE MEANTIME...

GRÜHH



IN THE MEANTIME, THE JUSTICE LEAGUE LAUNCHES SMOOTHLY, CONFIDENTLY, INTO ACTION. THEY ARE THEIR WORLD'S ELITE. THEIR FIRST LINE.

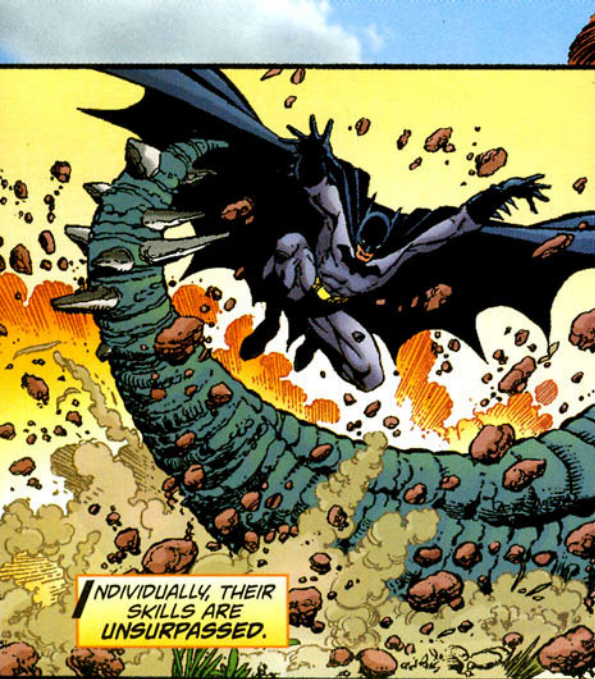
THEIR FINEST.



HRRGGGK

THEY HAVE FACED COUNTLESS MENACES THAT WOULD STAGGER THE IMAGINATION.

THEY HAVE TRIUMPHED OVER THEM ALL.



INDIVIDUALLY, THEIR SKILLS ARE UNSURPASSED.



AND WHEN NEEDS MUST--

NOT MUCH COVER LEFT--AND MORE OF THESE CREATURES THAN I'D HAVE THOUGHT. LEAGUE...?



GOT YOU COVERED, BATS.

STEADY ON THE RIGHT... STEADY ON THE LEFT...

PLASTIC MAN.

OH, OKAY.

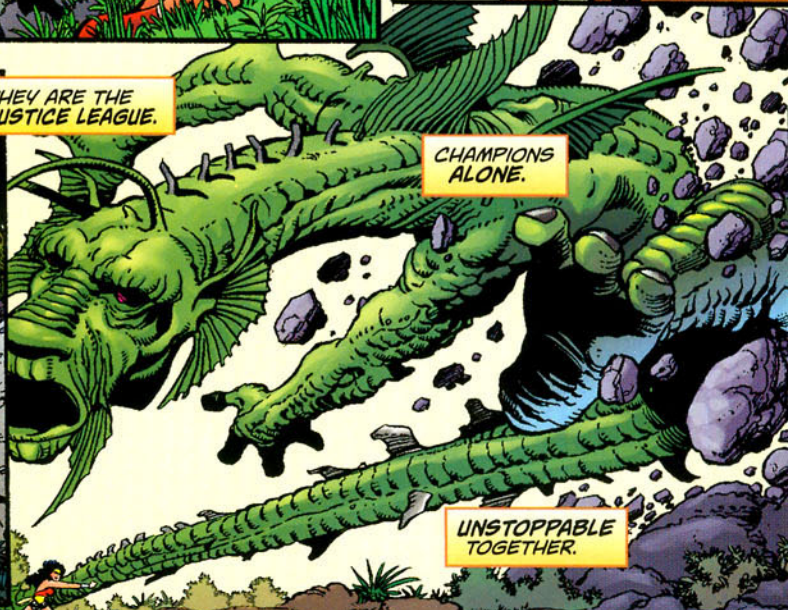


KRAKAM

--THEY COME TOGETHER INTO THE GREATEST FIGHTING FORCE THEIR WORLD HAS EVER KNOWN.



THEY ARE THE JUSTICE LEAGUE.



CHAMPIONS ALONE.

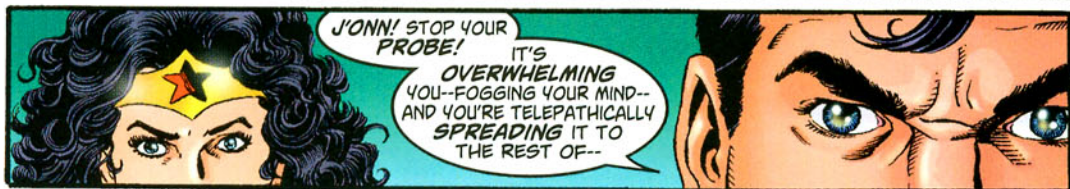
UNSTOPPABLE TOGETHER.

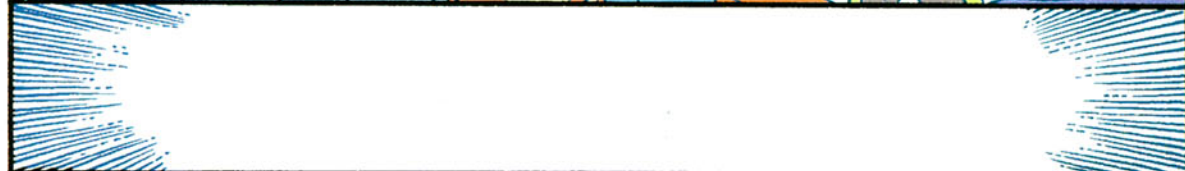


HEY, BATMAN!

THERE ARE ADVANTAGES TO BEING THIS SMALL, HMM?

YOU KNOW, I HAD A THOUGHT...







I FEAR IT MAY COME TO FAR MORE OF A FIGHT THAN WE THINK.

THERE ARE FIVE MORE ITEMS OF POWER IN THAT WORLD--WE CAN ALL FEEL IT.



THAT WORLD, THAT PLACE--

--I DIDN'T GET MUCH OF A LOOK AT THEM, BUT IF THOSE WERE ITS HEROES, I'M NOT IMPRESSED.

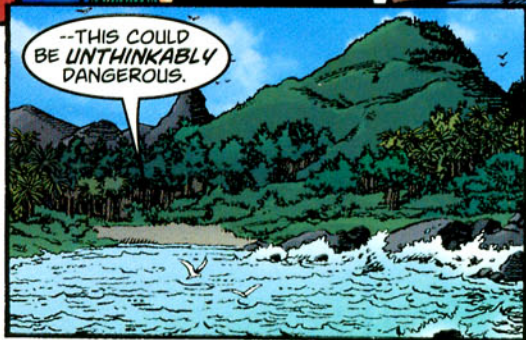
NOT WITH THEIR WORLD, NOT WITH THEIR ACHIEVEMENTS.

I'M NOT.

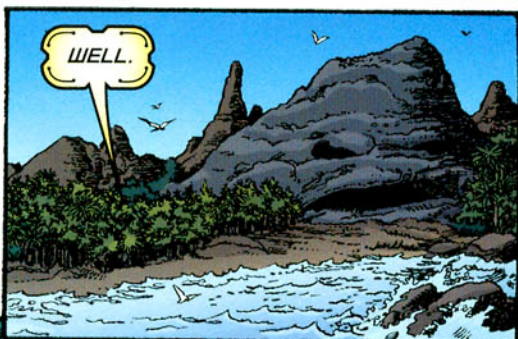


LET'S GET BACK TO THE WATCH-TOWER.

THE ARTIFACT WE HAVE IS BAD ENOUGH. IF THOSE PEOPLE HAVE MORE--



--THIS COULD BE UNTHINKABLY DANGEROUS.



WELL.



THE SIGNATURE MODULATOR WORKED PERFECTLY--STRENGTHENING THEIR CORE ENERGY-PATTERNS, RESTORING THEM TO THE WORLD THEY CAME FROM--BUT--



I THOUGHT THE NULLIFIER WAS CLEAR WHEN I FIRED. BUT THAT WOMAN-- SHE MOVED SO FAST--

MORE INTRUDERS-- THIS TIME, STEALING FROM OUR WORLD. BUT WHY...?



IT MATTERS NOT, QUICKSILVER. THEY HAVE THE ULTIMATE NULLIFIER ITSELF. E'EN MIGHTY GALACTUS DOTH RIGHTLY FEAR ITS POWER.

THEY ARE A THREAT TO ALL LIFE, AND MUST BE DEALT WITH!

YOU KNOW, THERE WAS SOMETHING FAMILIAR ABOUT THEM...



AVENGERS!

I HAVE INCREASED THE SENSITIVITY OF MY AUDIO RECEPTORS AND I SENSE RESPIRATION!

WE ARE BEING WATCHED--FROM THERE!



MORE OF THEM?
SWIFTLY, AVENGERS--
LEST THEY ESCAPE!

QUICKSILVER!
DON'T GET TOO FAR AHEAD! WE DON'T KNOW WHAT WE MIGHT BE--



YH!

UHH!

HMM?
WHAT--?

A FORCE FIELD!
AND EVEN WHEN I WILL MY ANDROID FORM TO FULL INTANGIBILITY, I CANNOT --

IT'S A TRAP.

THEY LEFT BEHIND A TRAP, AND WE BLUNDERED INTO IT LIKE--

I'M NOT SO SURE, HAWKEYE. NOT UNLESS THEY LEFT ONE OF THEIR OWN BEHIND, AS WELL.

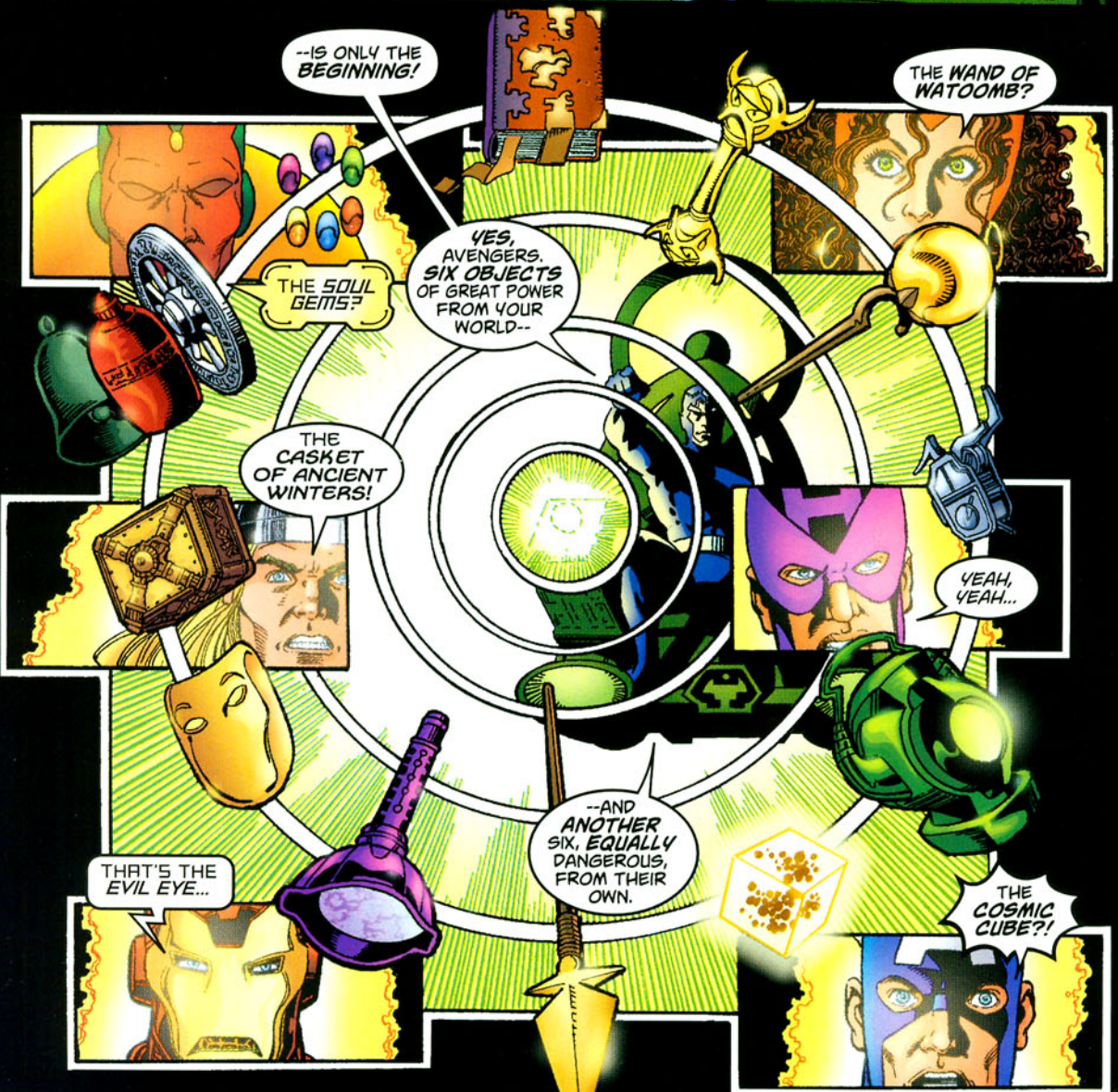


GOOD AFTERNOON, CAPTAIN AMERICA.

YOU ARE RIGHT TO BE CAUTIOUS. BUT THIS IS NOT A TRAP. I MERELY WISHED TO SPEAK TO YOU WITHOUT UNDUE... EXCITEMENT.

YOU MAY CALL ME
METRON!







IF THIS BE TRUE, THEN THESE VARLETS MUST BE STOPPED! AYE--



--AND SWIFTLY!



UFF! LITTLE WARNING NEXT TIME, THUNDER GOD--?

WE'LL NEED A WAY TO FOLLOW THEM-- BACK TO THEIR WORLD--



THEN TELL US, ENIGMATIC ONE--

TELL US HOW WE MIGHT FIND THESE FIENDS!



SKIP IT, THOR--I'M SURE HE'S TAKEN A "VOW OF MYSTERY," OR SOMETHING--THESE TYPES ALWAYS DO. MAYBE I CAN ADAPT THE MODULATOR...

...INFUSE US WITH THEIR WORLD'S BASE SIGNATURE, AND...



IT IS NOT NECESSARY, IRON MAN...



...ANY MORE THAN ARE THOR'S THREATS. HERE, SHE WILL AID YOU.

AND NOW...



SHE...?

HE'S ESCAPING! QUICKSILVER! GO!



I SEE NO REASON TO TRUST THIS METRON... BUT IF HIS CLAIMS CAN BE VERIFIED...

YOU SAID IT, VIZH. ANYONE PLAYING WITH THE ULTIMATE NULLIFIER--LET ALONE THE REST A' THAT STUFF--IS PLAYIN' WITH FIRE, BIG TIME!



I'LL CALL THE MANSION, LET THE WASP AND THE OTHERS KNOW WHAT'S GOING ON. IRON MAN, CAN YOU ANALYZE THAT GADGET? IS IT ANY USE...?

SORRY, CAP. GONE.



I DON'T... DON'T THINK IT'S A "GADGET," CAP. SHE'S MORE... ALIVE.

SHE'S... SPEAKING TO ME... THROUGH MY ARMOR, THROUGH MY HEART. SHE'S CALLED A MOTHER BOX... AND SHE AND I... WE CAN...

PNG PNG-PNG PNG

SHORTLY--IF SUCH A
WORD EVEN APPLIES,
ACROSS REALITIES--
--IN METROPOLIS--

LANGLANGLANGLANGLANGLANGLANGLANGLANG





AND IN MOMENTS...

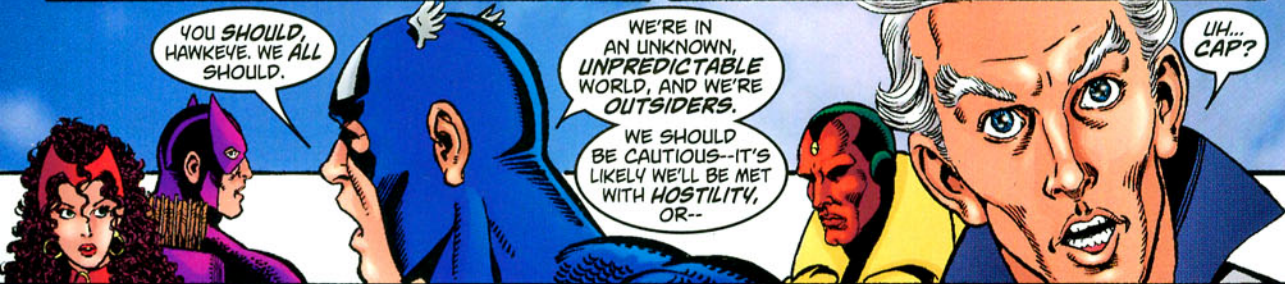
THEY'LL HAVE POLICE HERE. THEY CAN TAKE CARE OF THINGS.



DO THEY, WANDA? PARTS OF THIS CITY SEEM LIKE MODERN-DAY NEW YORK, BUT...

AYE. BUT PARTS DO TH SEEM STRANGELY LIKE SOME FUTURE-WORLD.

AW, SO THEY'VE GOT WEIRD ARCHITECTS. I WOULDN'T SWEAT IT, TH--



YOU SHOULD, HAWKEYE. WE ALL SHOULD.

WE'RE IN AN UNKNOWN, UNPREDICTABLE WORLD, AND WE'RE OUTSIDERS.

WE SHOULD BE CAUTIOUS--IT'S LIKELY WE'LL BE MET WITH HOSTILITY, OR--

UH... CAP?



HEY!

THAT WAS GREAT!

...AUTOGRAPH...

...PHOTO...

TOOK OUT THOSE GUYS ALMOST AS GOOD AS...

HM?



--YOU WITH THE JSA? YOU'RE TOO OLD TO BE TITANS...

--CAN YOU MAKE IT OUT TO KIRK?

UH... SURE, NO PROBLEM. I DON'T SEE WHY N --



WE DON'T HAVE TIME FOR THIS, AVENGERS! OR DID YOU FORGET WE'VE GOT A JOB TO DO?

QUICKSILVER--SCOUT AROUND! THE REST OF YOU--

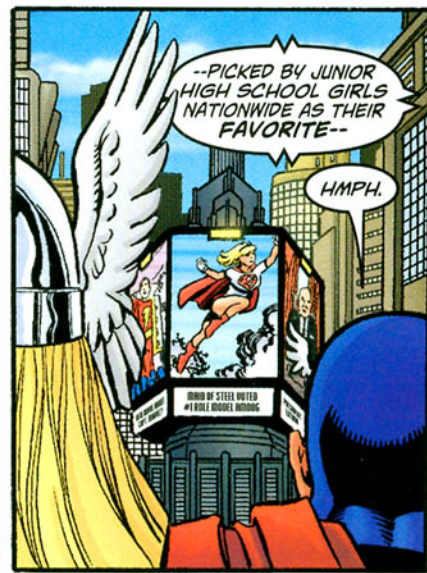


"--MOVE OUT, NOW!"

BUT--JUST A SIGNATURE--?

WOW.

WHO JAMMED THAT STAR UP HIS STRIPES...?







"-- LET US SHOW
THESE CAITIFFS
WHAT WE THINK
OF THEM!"



GH-UHH!

ELSEWHERE...

AND SO IT
BEGINS.

THEY DO NOT KNOW THEY
PLAY A GAME--A GAME OF
MY DEVISING.
BUT THE
CONFLICT IS WELL
ESTABLISHED--

--AND THE
STAKES, QUITE
REAL.

YES--

--BUT YOU
REALIZE, I
HOPE--

--THAT
KRONA HAS NO
INTENTION OF
ABIDING BY YOUR
RULES.

IF HE
WINS, HE WILL
CLAIM HIS PRIZE. IF
HE LOSES-- HE'LL DO
WHATEVER HE MUST
TO GAIN WHAT HE
SEEKS.

TRUE. NEITHER
UNIVERSE MAY
SURVIVE, IN
THE END.

BUT THIS
WAS THE
ONLY WAY
TO DELAY
HIM.

TO
BUY SOME
TIME.

SO EVENTS
WILL HAVE TO
PLAY OUT AS
THEY WILL.

AND FOR
THE SAKE OF TWO
UNIVERSES, LET US HOPE
KRONA DOES NOT DISCOVER--

--THAT I AM
SIMULTANEOUSLY
PLAYING A DEEPER
GAME--!

END of BOOK ONE

NEXT: WHEN TITANS CLASH!

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