



MARVEL

AVENGERS JLA

BUSIEK • PÉREZ

4 OF 4



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AVENGERS/JLA 4 OF 4

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BUSIEK • PÉREZ

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BUSIEK • PÉREZ WITH SMITH

DC COMICS • MARVEL COMICS

GEORGE PÉREZ
JOHN SMITH '03

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AVENGERS ★ JLA

BUSIEK • PÉREZ

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HIS NAME IS KRONA...

RUTHLESS, IMMORTAL, HE SEEKS THE SECRET OF CREATION. A GLIMPSE OF THE FORMATION OF HIS OWN UNIVERSE, OF STARS SWIRLING IN A COSMIC HAND, HAS SET HIM ON A QUEST TO LEARN THE TRUTH AT ANY COST. CAST FROM HIS HOME REALITY, HE WANDERS THE MULTIVERSE, DESTROYING REALITIES IN HIS DESIRE TO SEE WHAT GIVES THEM BIRTH.

IN TIME, HE ENCOUNTERS THE GRANDMASTER, WHO SEEKS TO PRESERVE HIS REALITY BY CHALLENGING KRONA TO A GAME. TEMPTED BY THE PRIZE -- THE SECRETS OF GALACTUS, A BEING WHO LIVED THROUGH THE BIG BANG -- KRONA AGREES. THE GAME IS PLAYED OUT BY THE AVENGERS AND THE JUSTICE LEAGUE, THE CHAMPIONS OF TWO UNIVERSES --

-- BUT THE GAME IS A FEINT, A RUSE THAT ALLOWS THE GRANDMASTER TO ASSEMBLE TWELVE ARTIFACTS OF GREAT POWER. WHEN KRONA LOSES, HE ATTACKS THE GRANDMASTER AND BEGINS TO SEIZE HIS PRIZE. BUT THE GRANDMASTER USES THE ARTIFACTS TO BRING THE TWO UNIVERSES TOGETHER, TRAPPING KRONA BETWEEN THEM.

KRONA IS TRAPPED -- BUT NOT HELPLESS. NOW HE HAS THE ARTIFACTS -- AND HE USES THEM TO FORCE THE UNIVERSES CLOSER TOGETHER, BEGINNING TO MERGE THEM INTO ONE.

THE EFFECT IS CATAclySMIC. THE REALITIES ARE INCOMPATIBLE. REALITY BEGINS TO WARP UNPREDICTABLY. UPHEAVALS THREATEN TO DESTROY BOTH.

THE JLA AND THE AVENGERS, THEIR MEMORIES CHANGING AS REALITY DOES, DISCOVER THE TRUTH AND STAVE OFF DISASTER TEMPORARILY. THEY MAKE THEIR WAY TO THE GRANDMASTER, FINDING HIM WOUNDED, WEAK.

THEY LEARN WHAT THEIR REALITIES WERE -- WHAT THEY SHOULD BE. AND THEY'RE SHOCKED BY THEIR TRUE HISTORY, WHICH HOLDS NOT ONLY HEROISM AND TRIUMPH, BUT DEATH, MADNESS AND LOSS. HARDEST HIT ARE YELLOWJACKET AND THE WASP, WHO SEE THEIR MARRIAGE FAIL, THE FLASH AND GREEN LANTERN, WHO SEE THEMSELVES DIE, AND THE VISION AND THE SCARLET WITCH, WHO SEE CHILDREN TORN FROM THEM, LOST FOREVER.

STILL, THEY CHOOSE TO FIGHT. TO RESTORE THE TRUTH. THEY'LL HAVE TO DO IT WITHOUT THE GRANDMASTER, THOUGH. THE GRANDMASTER IS DEAD...

PROLOGUE:

YOU SEE? YOU SEE?

THEY KNEW THEY WERE DYING, THE PEOPLE OF TAA! KNEW THEIR UNIVERSE WAS DOOMED!

BUT THEY DID NOT GO QUIETLY. THEY FOUGHT--TO THE END!

THE LAST OF THEM MANNED A SHIP--

--AIMED IT FOR THE TERMINAL POINT-- INTO WHICH ALL MATTER WAS COLLAPSING--

AS THEY FLEW, THEY DIED--SUCCUMBED TO THE UNIVERSAL DECAY THAT HAD ROBBED THEIR WORLD OF LIFE.

THEY DIED--

--ALL BUT ONE.

ONE SURVIVOR-- ONE MAN, ONE MIND--

--WHO PLUNGED INTO THE SEETHING CAULDRON OF THE TERMINAL POINT. AND LISTEN--LISTEN--!

HEAR ME, LAST SON OF TAA--I AM THE SENTIENCE OF THE UNIVERSE!

THOUGH WE BOTH MUST DIE, WE NEED NOT DIE WITHOUT AN HEIR. COME, SURRENDER YOURSELF TO MY FIERY EMBRACE, AND LET US BECOME AS--

AND BLAH BLAH BLAH BLAH BLAH! HE WAS REBORN, THAT LAST SURVIVOR, EMERGING IN THE UNIVERSE TO COME AS GALACTUS!

THAT IS WHAT I WRENCHED FROM GALACTUS'S MIND-- THE SECRET OF HIS BIRTH!

BUT DO YOU SEE? A VOICE IN ONE UNIVERSE--A HAND IN ANOTHER!

THERE IS A SPIRIT THAT GIVES LIFE TO UNIVERSES! A CONSCIOUSNESS DEEP IN THEIR VERY FABRIC! THEY THINK! FEEL! LIVE!





QUITE A DISCOVERY. QUITE A BREAKTHROUGH.

SO, KRONA. WHAT NOW?



NOW? I LEARN THE TRUTH!

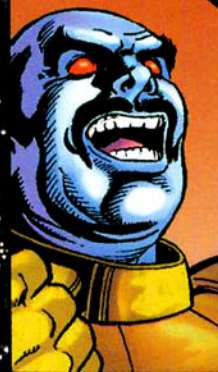
THAT FOOL, THE GRANDMASTER-- HE THOUGHT ME TRAPPED BY HIS DAMNABLE POWER-ITEMS! BUT I WIELD THEIR ENERGIES NOT, METRON--

--HERE, AT THE POINT WHERE TWO UNIVERSES--TWO COSMIC SENTENCES--ARE JOINED TOGETHER!

NOW I HOLD THE UNIVERSES IN MY GRIP, FORCING THEM TO MERGE!

I WILL FORCE THEIR ANIMATING SPIRITS OUT-- MAKE THEM GIVE UP THE SECRETS OF CREATION I HAVE SOUGHT FOR SO LONG!

I WILL FINALLY-- FINALLY-- KNOW!



AND...IF THE UNIVERSES CANNOT SURVIVE THE STRAIN YOU ARE PUTTING ON THEM?

POFF!

IF THEY DIE, THEY DIE. IT MATTERS NOT.

ALL THAT MATTERS--

--ALL THAT MATTERS--

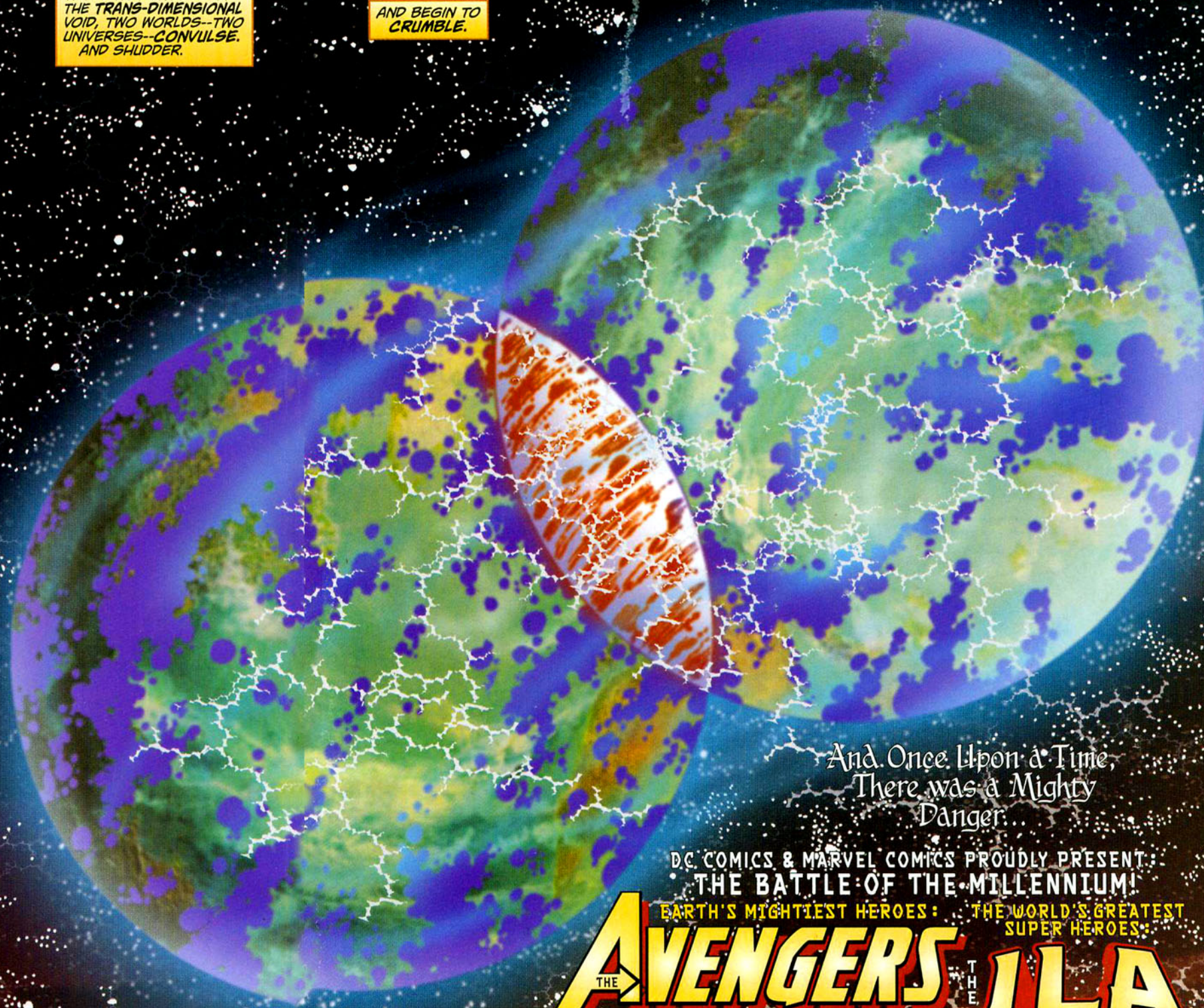
--IS THE END OF MY LONG QUEST!



PROLOGUE ENDS.

IN THE NOTHINGNESS OF THE TRANS-DIMENSIONAL VOID, TWO WORLDS--TWO UNIVERSES--CONVULSE. AND SHUDDER.

AND BEGIN TO CRUMBLE.



And Once Upon a Time,
There was a Mighty
Danger...

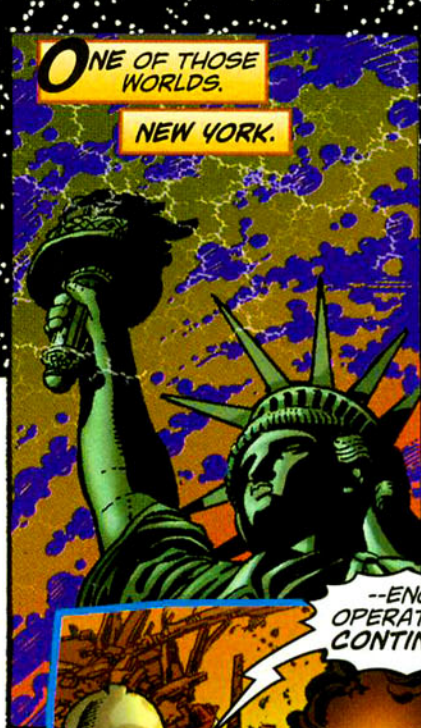
DC COMICS & MARVEL COMICS PROUDLY PRESENT:
THE BATTLE OF THE MILLENNIUM!

EARTH'S MIGHTIEST HEROES: THE WORLD'S GREATEST
SUPER HEROES:

THE AVENGERS THE JLA
UNITED AT LAST!

BOOK FOUR:

The BRAVE... and the BOLD



ONE OF THOSE
WORLDS.

NEW YORK.



--ENCY
OPERATIONS
CONTINUE--



RELAX, KID.
YOU'RE SAFE NOW.
AND EVERYTHING'S
GONNA BE ALL RIGHT.
IT'S ALL GONNA
BE ALL RIGHT.



I HOPE.

--AS THE
WORLDWIDE OUTBREAK OF
EARTHQUAKES, FIRES AND
WEATHER INVERSIONS
ENTERS ITS THIRD--



MAN! IT'S NOT
SLOWING
DOWN--!

THEN
NEITHER DO WE,
SPEEDBALL.

WE GO AS
LONG AS IT
TAKES!



--EARTH'S
SUPERHUMANS
PRESSED TO THE
LIMIT, AROUND
THE WORLD--



--DO WE
STOP IT,
TANIA?

WE DON'T! THIS
IS ALL JUST A
SYMPTOM! ALL WE
CAN DO IS TREAT
IT--

--UNTIL
SOMEONE ELSE
FINDS A CURE!



--IN SALISBURY
PLAIN, WHERE STONEHENGE
THREATENS TO TOPPLE, AND
CAPTAIN BRITAIN WORKS
TO PRESERVE IT--



--JERUSALEM, WHERE
ISRAELI HERO SABRA
PROTECTS THE WAILING
WALL FROM THE LATEST
WAVE OF--



--WORD OF THE
AVENGERS?

THEY'RE
WORKING ON
THE PROBLEM.
EVERYTHING
IS UNDER
CONTROL...

THE OTHER
WORLD.

ANOTHER
NEW YORK.

M-MOVE
IT GUYS! CAN'T
H-HOLD--!

SURE
YOU CAN, VIC!
JUST A
FEW SECONDS
LONGER!

--ACUATION
NEARLY COMPLETE,
THANKS TO THE
OUTSIDERS, INFINITY
INC. AND THE
TEEN--

EXCUSE THE
INTERRUPTION, CAPTAIN, BUT
THERE SEEM TO BE NEW
DEVELOPMENTS.

WE SWITCH
YOU NOW--

LOIS LANE
LIVE FROM
GBS-ONE

LANA LANG

--MISTS THAT HAD
SWALLOWED METROPOLIS
AND GOTHAM--

--HAVE BEGUN
SHIFTING AND
CHURNING.

THE
TITANS ARE
INVESTIGATING,
BUT--

HOLY
COW!

AS IF IT
WASN'T BAD
ENOUGH--NOW
WE GOT
DINOSAURS!

YEAH,
CHANGELING,
WE'RE NOT
BLIND.

TIME
FLUXES. WHAT
NEXT...?

--STILL NO
NEWS FROM
THE JUSTICE
LEAGUE?

COMMUNICATION
WITH THEIR LUNAR
HEADQUARTERS HAS BEEN
SPOTTY. BUT WE'RE
CONFIDENT THEY'RE GIVING
THEIR FULL EFFORTS
TO THE CRISIS--

--AND WILL
HAVE A SOLUTION
SOON.

I SAID--

MORGAN EDGE



VISION, WE'RE DOING WHAT WE HAVE TO-- THERE'S NO OTHER--

I DON'T ACCEPT THAT, CAPTAIN! AND NEITHER SHOULD YOU! IT VIOLATES EVERY PRINCIPLE OF LOGIC, OF REASON--!

--NO!

THIS IS MADNESS!

VISION...!

I'M GOING HOME! GOING TO FIND MY CHILDREN!

YOU'VE BLINDLY ACCEPTED WHAT THE GRANDMASTER TOLD US--WHAT OUR OWN MEMORIES SAY IS FALSE! AND YOU'RE WILLING TO SACRIFICE BILLIONS TO THIS CRAZED IDEA OF A RESTORED REALITY--

--A REALITY WHERE THE THINGS THAT HAPPENED-- THAT WE WITNESSED--

I CAN'T BELIEVE THEY'RE TRUE! I WON'T! NOT MY SONS! NOT--NNH!



CALM YOURSELF, AVENGER. LISTEN TO REASON.



IT'S--NOT--IT-- MAYBE YOU DON'T CARE ABOUT SAVING INNOCENTS, BUT--

VISION, IT'S TRUE. IT'S ALL TRUE.

THE CHAOS-MAGIC ON THIS WORLD--IT'S SO MUCH STRONGER THAN AT HOME, AND I CAN SEE EVERYTHING. SEE THE WAY IT'S SUPPOSED TO BE.

REALITY AS WE KNOW IT IS WARPED-- UNSTABLE--



--AND IT'S AFFECTING EVEN US. TWENTY MINUTES AGO, WE NEVER HAD CHILDREN. IN FIVE MINUTES, WE MAY NOT EVER HAVE BEEN MARRIED.

DON'T YOU SEE? WE CAN'T PRESERVE THE WAY THINGS ARE. BUT IF WE TRY TO RESTORE WHAT WAS--



BUT... THOMAS... AND WILLIAM...

A-ALL RIGHT. IF IT IS TRULY THE ONLY WAY. JUST... JUST TELL ME...



"...WHAT WE MUST DO..."

WE HAVE NO REAL IDEA WHAT WE'LL BE UP AGAINST. KRONA HAS A HISTORY OF MENTALLY ENTHRALLING OTHERS, USING THEM AS HIS SOLDIERS--

--AS HE DID WITH SONAR AND THOSE OTHERS IN METROPOLIS.

EVEN AFTER WE'VE FOUND HIM, WE COULD BE FACING ANYTHING--ANYONE.

AND HE'LL HAVE DEFENSES, AS WELL.

EACH OF THE ARTIFACTS HE CONTROLS IS POWERFUL ENOUGH TO BE A THREAT ON ITS OWN.

HE'S RUTHLESS, HE'S MONOMANIACAL...

YES, LANTERN, HE IS POWERFUL. ANY WHO COULD SLAY THE GRANDMASTER DOTH BE MIGHTY INDEED.

BUT HE IS A VILLAIN. AND WE ARE BENT ON SMITING HIM.

LET US SPEAK NO MORE OF THE DANGER--BUT OF HOW TO REACH OUR GOAL.

WE'LL NEED A WAY IN. THOR MANAGED TO BRING US HERE FROM THE GRANDMASTER'S LAIR--

--BUT FINDING OUR WAY TO KRONA'S STRONGHOLD WILL BE TRICKIER.

BARRY AND I HAVE BEEN TALKING. WE HAVE A FEW IDEAS ON THAT SCORE. WE'LL NEED GREEN LANTERN'S HELP, AND THE VISION'S...

WE'LL NEED A SHIP, AS WELL.

AND MAYBE SOME ENGINEERING ASSISTANCE FROM THE ATOM...

WE'LL ALL DO WHAT WE CAN.

BUT WE NEED A COMMANDER--SOMEONE WHO CAN LEAD BOTH TEAMS, FUSE US INTO ONE.

I BELIEVE THAT SHOULD BE YOU, CAPTAIN AMERICA.

HM?

I'M **FLATTERED**, BUT I'M NOT SO SURE. THE **CONFLICTING NATURE** OF OUR TWO WORLDS HAS PUT US ON EDGE...**FRAVED TEMPER**S, **JUDGMENTS**...

I KNOW.

BUT YOU'RE STILL THE MAN FOR THE JOB.

I CONCUR.

WELL, ALL RIGHT. TEN POINTS FOR OUR SIDE!

ENOUGH, JAN. THIS ISN'T THE TIME.

I NEED TO BE CERTAIN. MANHUNTER--WILL THE LEAGUE FOLLOW MY LEAD? WITHOUT HESITATION?

I HAVE SCANNED OUR MINDS.

WE WILL.

ALL RIGHT.

WE MAY NOT KNOW WHAT WE'LL BE FACING, BUT WE CAN TRAIN TOGETHER, GET USED TO ONE ANOTHER'S STYLES.

PLUS, I HAVE A TRICK OR TWO IN MIND. BUT FIRST, TRANSPORTATION. AVENGERS, LEAGUE...

"...LET'S GET CRACKING."

THESE SENSORS--THEY ARE MOST **UNUSUAL**. THE CABLES ALONE ARE LIKE NOTHING I HAVE EVER SEEN...

THEY SHOULD BE, J'ONN. IRON MAN AND ATOM WHIPPED THEM UP--THEY'RE BUILT TO RUN ON MY RING-POWER.

THEY'LL CONVERT MY RING-SCANS TO DATA, FEED THEM TO THE ONBOARD SYSTEM...

I AM LINKED, HANK. PROCESSING TEST READINGS. ARE YOU GETTING THE RESULTS YOU HOPED FOR?

ACES, VISION!

WITH YOUR COMPUTER-MIND, THIS'LL LET US REACT TO INCOMING DATA VIRTUALLY INSTANTANEOUSLY, MAKING ADJUSTMENTS AT THE SPEED OF THOUGHT...

I'VE GOT THE HANG OF IT NOW, AQUAMAN. A GOOD SHIP--YOU'RE SURE SHE'LL HANDLE THE STRESSES?

THIS IS AN IMPERIAL ATLANTEAN WARCRRAFT, CAPTAIN.

SHE'LL TAKE THE FULL PRESSURE OF THE OCEAN'S DEEPEST TRENCHES--AND MORE.

I WOULD HAVE SWORN THIS WAS A FOUR-DAY JOB, IRON MAN. BUT YOU'VE TRIPLED BOTH THRUST AND MANEUVERABILITY IN MERE HOURS--

I'M NOT. I DON'T MUCH LIKE GUNS.

MAKE IT TONY. I'M JUST SORRY WE HAD TO DIVERT MOST OF THE CANNON-POWER TO DO IT.

IN HERE, RAY?

PERFECT!

NEXT, THE RED PLUG...

NEW READINGS...

YOU'RE VERY FOCUSED, WANDA.

YES. I'LL BE FINE AS LONG AS I HAVE SOMETHING TO DO.

"TONIGHT, WHEN WE'RE WAITING FOR THE DIMENSIONAL HARMONICS TO BE RIGHT FOR TRANSFER..."

"...THAT'S WHEN IT'LL BE HARD."

VISION...

YES, MY LOVE, I KNOW.

I KNOW.



JAN?

WHAT WE SAW, IN THE "CORRECT" TIMELINE... JAN, I LOVE YOU SO MUCH. I CAN'T... CAN'T TELL YOU HOW SORRY I AM FOR...

...FOR SOMETHING I CAN'T EVEN IMAGINE DOING...

IT'S...NOT IMPORTANT, HANK.

NOT...NOT WHEN MEASURED AGAINST THE FATE OF TWO WORLDS...

NO...I GUESS NOT. WE'RE JUST SACRIFICING OUR HAPPINESS.

OTHERS...

HAL?

AH.

...blackest night. No evil shall escape my sight. Let those who worship evil's might...

...beware my power... Green Lantern's light.

THERE. READY.

YOU KNOW, BARRY, WALLY'S A GOOD KID. IF HE'S YOUR SUCCESSOR... I'VE BEEN PROUD TO KNOW HIM, TO WORK WITH HIM. YOU COULDN'T ASK FOR BETTER.

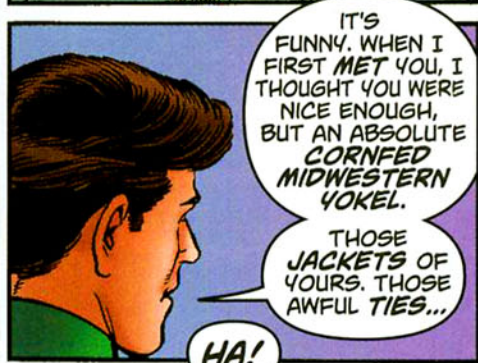
THAT GUY WE SAW WHO TAKES OVER AS G.L.--HE LOOKED PRETTY GOOD, TOO.

MAYBE IT'S NOT SO BAD TO DIE. NOT IF YOU LEAVE A LEGACY, IF YOU KNOW SOMEONE'LL STILL BE FIGHTING FOR WHAT YOU BELIEVED IN.



IF ONLY THERE WAS **ONE MORE DAY**. ONE MORE **COOKOUT** WITH IRIS AND CAROL.

ONE MORE LOUD NIGHT OUT WITH **OLLIE AND RALPH**.



IT'S FUNNY. WHEN I FIRST **MET** YOU, I THOUGHT YOU WERE NICE ENOUGH, BUT AN ABSOLUTE **CORNFED MIDWESTERN YOKEL**.

THOSE **JACKETS** OF YOURS. THOSE **AWFUL TIES...**

HA!



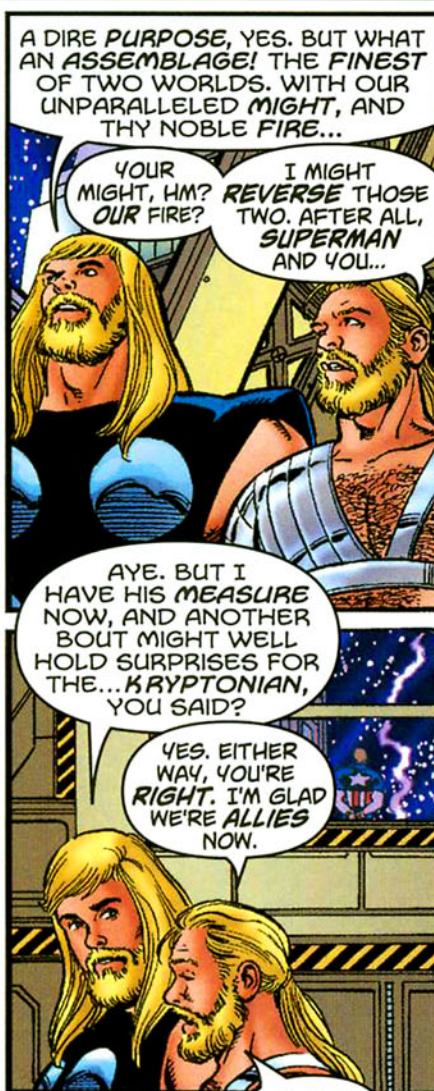
AND I THOUGHT YOU WERE A **SELF-SATISFIED COAST CITY SHARPIE**, CONVINCED YOU WERE GOD'S GIFT TO **WOMEN** AND SLICKER THAN **SPIT**.

IT SEEMS LIKE SO LONG AGO...



I'M GOING TO SEE IF THE **COMM-LINES** ARE BETTER. TRY TO REACH **IRIS** ONE LAST TIME.

GIVE HER MY LOVE.



A DIRE **PURPOSE**, YES. BUT WHAT AN **ASSEMBLAGE!** THE **FINEST** OF TWO WORLDS. WITH OUR **UNPARALLELED MIGHT**, AND THY **NOBLE FIRE...**

YOUR MIGHT, HM? **OUR FIRE?**

I MIGHT **REVERSE** THOSE TWO. AFTER ALL, **SUPERMAN** AND YOU...

AYE. BUT I HAVE HIS **MEASURE** NOW, AND ANOTHER **BOUT** MIGHT WELL HOLD **SURPRISES** FOR THE...**KRYPTONIAN**, YOU SAID?

YES. EITHER WAY, YOU'RE **RIGHT**. I'M GLAD WE'RE **ALLIES** NOW.



I JUST WISH IT **WASN'T...**



YOU WANTED TO **SEE ME?**

LOOK, I'D LIKE TO **APOLOGIZE** AGAIN FOR SOME OF THE **HARSH--**



DON'T. YOU WEREN'T **YOURSELF**. NEITHER WAS I.

I KNOW. BUT I'LL **CONFESS--I DO** WORRY, SOMETIMES, ABOUT DOING **TOO MUCH**. DENYING **HUMANITY** **FREEDOM OF CHOICE...**

THAT'S WHAT MADE IT **STING**, ISN'T IT?

THAT **DEEP DOWN**, WE BOTH WORRY IT MIGHT BE **TRUE**.

IN MY CASE, THAT **AS HARD** AS THE **AVENGERS** FIGHT...I FEAR SOMETIMES IT MAY NEVER BE **ENOUGH**.

BUT THAT'S NOT WHY I ASKED FOR YOU.

I'LL NEED YOU TO TAKE THE **BRUNT** OF THE **ATTACK**. BUT EVEN YOU **AREN'T** A MATCH FOR THE **POWER** **KRONA** CAN BRING TO BEAR.



I'LL BE IN THE **COMMAND SHIP**, COORDINATING THE **ATTACK**, SO...

...I'D LIKE YOU TO **CARRY THIS**.



I'M...I'M **HONORED**, CAPTAIN. I'LL DO MY BEST TO **WIELD IT WELL**.

I JUST HOPE WE'RE **READY**.



WELL...

"...WE'LL KNOW
SOON ENOUGH."

GO.

CH-CHK

VMMMMMMMM TEK TEK TEK

THOU HAST
MJOLNIR'S
FULL POWER,
IRON MAN!

YON
DEVICE--
IT WILL
WORK?

I HOPE SO,
THOR.

BY RIGHTS, IT
MAKES NO SENSE--
CONVERTING SPEED TO A VIBRATIONAL
WAVE THAT SHIFTS
THE TEMPORO-
DIMENSIONAL
LOCUS--

IT WOULDN'T
WORK BACK
HOME--

IT'LL
WORK.

READY?

NOT YET.

SENSORS?

PAN-REALITY
PROBES EXTENDED.
TREADMILL ENERGIES
MOUNTING--
MOUNTING--

KRONA'S SHIELDS
ARE STRONG,
BUT PERHAPS, IF
WE STRIKE AT
THE PRECISE--

AQUAMAN,
WANDA--
WE WILL NEED
FULL THRUST--
AND MAXIMUM
PROBABILITY
DISRUPTION--

--NOW!

AND IN AN INSTANT,
THE ATLANTEAN SHIP
SURGES FORWARD--

AND THE WALLS OF
THE WATCHTOWER
MELT AROUND THEM--

AND REALITY--

--CHANGES--

GREAT
GUARDIANS!

HIS
STRONGHOLD--
IT'S--

IT'S
GALACTUS.

HE BUILT
IT FROM THE
REMAINS OF
GALACTUS.





AND NOW,
LET THE CRY
RING OUT!

LET IT SHAKE THE
GROUND AND ROCK THE
FIRMAMENT ABOVE--

--THAT KRONA
SHALL KNOW--WE
COME FOR HIM!

AVENGERS ASSEMBLE!



AND
JUSTICE LEAGUE,
UH--LAMBASTE!



SO.

HE REALLY
EXPECTS THIS TO
STOP US?

AHH!

MINDLINK
ESTABLISHED.
CAPTAIN
AMERICA--
YOU ARE IN
COMMAND.

THANK
YOU,
J'ONN.
ALL RIGHT,
EVERYONE--
WE'RE ON
UNKNOWN
TERRAIN AND
UNDER
ASSAULT.



FIRST PRIORITIES--
BEACHHEAD AND
RECONNAISSANCE!

HUU!

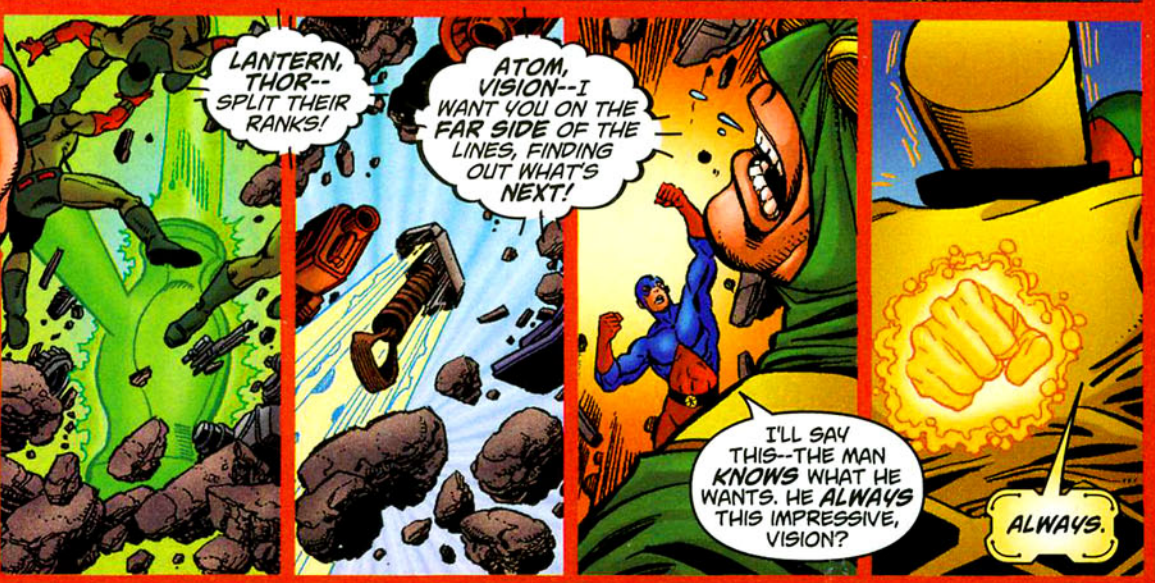
UHH!



WONDER WOMAN,
GOLIATH,
AQUAMAN--

GET THE
ENEMY'S
ATTENTION--
AND HOLD
IT!

NO
PROBLEM!



LANTERN,
THOR--
SPLIT THEIR
RANKS!

ATOM,
VISION--I
WANT YOU ON THE
FAR SIDE OF THE
LINES, FINDING
OUT WHAT'S
NEXT!

I'LL SAY
THIS--THE MAN
KNOWS WHAT HE
WANTS. HE ALWAYS
THIS IMPRESSIVE,
VISION?

ALWAYS.

HANK! TAKE AWAY THEIR FIREPOWER! WANDA--SEE IF YOU CAN SENSE ANY ENERGY-FLUXES--

--PREDICT THE NEW ASSAULTS BEFORE THEY HIT!

I'LL DO MY BEST, CAP!

IRON MAN, AQUAMAN--

--MOLOIDS AT TWO O'CLOCK!

THIS IS SO STRANGE--GETTING COMMANDS LIKE THIS, RIGHT INSIDE MY SKULL...

YOU GET USED TO IT, IN TIME.

LANTERN, DIANA, J'ONN--HUMANOID TO YOUR LEFT! GET THEIR SPECS FROM MY MEMORIES!

SUPERMAN, THOR--

--COMING IN FROM THE NORTH, DON'T KNOW THEM--

DON'T WORRY, CAPTAIN--THEY WON'T BE AROUND LONG ENOUGH FOR IT TO MATTER!

AND WHERE CAN I GET ONE OF THESE SHIELDS--IT'S FANTASTIC!

ENJOY IT WHILE THOU CANST, SUPERMAN.

THERE IS NONE OTHER LIKE IT IN ALL THE WORLDS.

OKAY, WE'RE HOLDING 'EM OFF--

--BUT THAT'S NOT ENOUGH! FLASH, WASP, EAST AND WEST--

--SEE IF WE CAN GO AROUND, RATHER THAN THROUGH!

SOME SORT OF CABLES, GENERATING A FIELD-WALL--PROBABLY LETHAL!

I WOULDN'T WANT TO TRY GOING THROUGH IT--



BUT IT'S **IRREGULAR**, AS IF IT'S BEEN **HASTILY BUILT!**

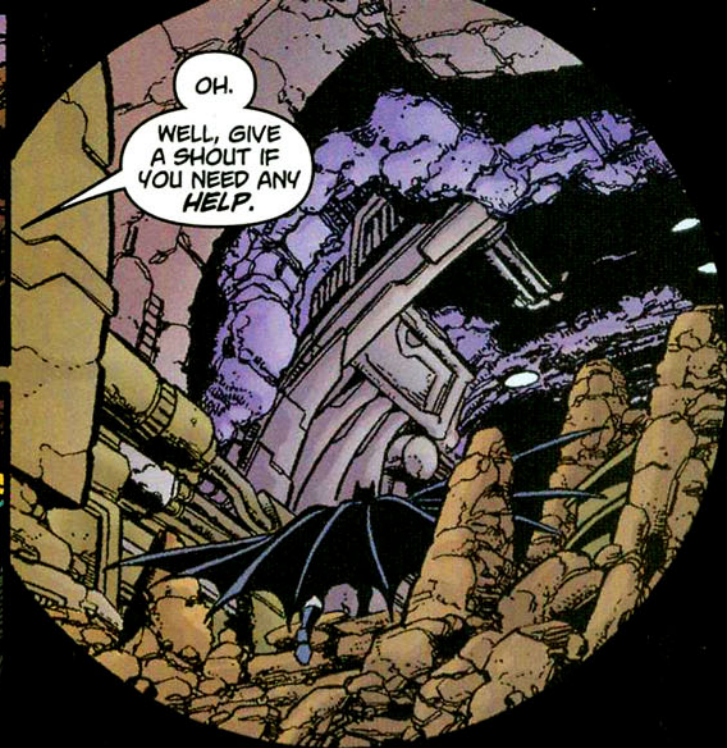
THERE ARE **GAPS**, WHERE A SINGLE MAN COULD--

GOOD.



BATMAN, I WANT YOU **THROUGH** THAT FIELD--FIND THE **CONTROL STATION** FOR IT AND SHUT IT--

BATMAN?



OH.

WELL, GIVE A SHOUT IF YOU NEED ANY **HELP.**

HE **WON'T**, CAP, BUT DON'T WORRY. HE'S LIKE THAT WITH ALL OF--

--HUH?



THAT NOISE--THAT **LIGHT!**

WHAT ON **EARTH--?**



IT'S SOME SORT OF **WAVE**, CAP--RIPPLING THROUGH THE **WHOLE AREA!**

BUT IT'S **WILD, CHAOTIC**--IT'S NOT ANYTHING **KRONA** COULD HAVE--



--EH?

HUH? **WHERE--?**



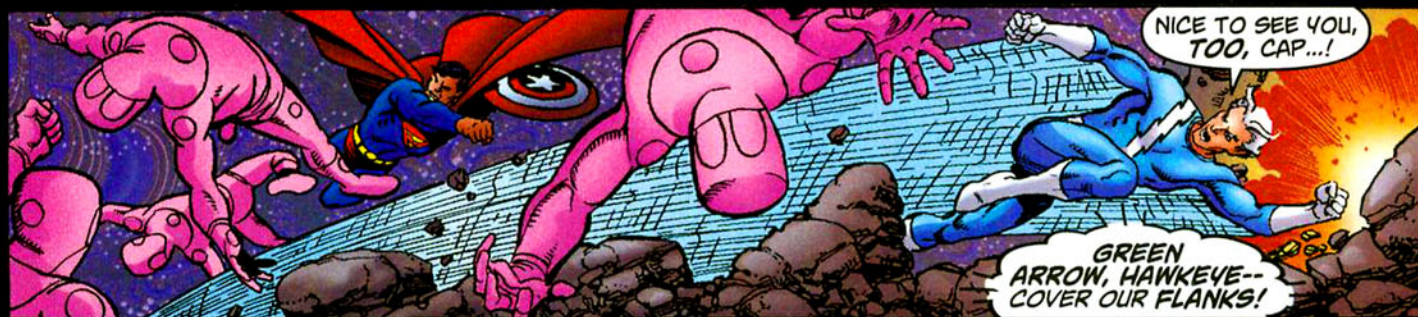
SHEESH!

SOMEBODY TELL ME NEVER TO EAT **ANCHOVY PIZZA** RIGHT BEFORE **BED** AGAIN--!

IT'S NO **DREAM**, CLINT! I DON'T KNOW WHAT IT IS, BUT **YOU'RE HERE**, WANDA'S **GONE--**

IT'S SOME SORT OF **CHRONAL INSTABILITY!** THE ENERGY THAT'S BEEN MAKING OUR **WORLDS** GO CRAZY--IT'S REACHED HERE, NOW--

--AND IT'S AFFECTING **US!** OUR **UNIFORMS**, OUR **ROSTERS--!**





--THERE IS MORE IMPORTANT WORK TO DO.

WITH THE ENERGIES I AM DRAWING FROM THE TWO UNIVERSES, THEY WILL NOT REMAIN COHERENT MUCH LONGER--

--NOR WILL THIS OASIS BETWEEN THEM.

BUT I HAVE LOCATED THE UNIVERSAL AVATARS--THE CONSCIOUSNESSES OF THE TWO REALMS--AND SEIZED THEM.

I MUST HAVE MY ANSWERS SOON--BEFORE THEY ARE ANNIHILATED! AID ME, METRON--

--HELP ME FORCE THEM TO AN ACCOUNTING!

WHAT? DON'T MAKE JOKES, METRON! YOU ARE THE ONE WHO LED ME TO THE AVENGERS' UNIVERSE, HELPED ME SEE ITS POSSIBILITIES!

YOU CANNOT BACK OUT NOW. ARE WE NOT BOTH TRUTH-SEEKERS?

ARE WE?


EH?

ASK YOURSELF WHAT YOU TRULY SEEK, KRONA. ASK YOURSELF HONESTLY. IS IT TRUTH? ANSWERS? OR IS IT CONQUEST?

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT, I LEAVE UP TO YOU. BUT I SHALL BE WATCHING.

AND BELIEVE ME...

BOOM



"...I WILL BE
VERY INTERESTED
IN THE OUTCOME..."

BATMAN
TO CAPTAIN
AMERICA.

THE FIELD
GENERATORS
ARE DOWN -- A
FEW EXPLOSIVE
CHARGES TOOK
CARE OF THEM. SEND
THE OTHERS
THROUGH.

I'M SCOUTING
FURTHER, TO SEE
IF I CAN FIND AN
UNDEFENDED
PATH TO--

--TO--
=NN=

'ALLO, MON AMI! ZAT IS YOUR
JAW -- AND ZIS IS ZE FOOT
OF BATROC--

--BATROC,
ZE LEAPAIR!

UHH!

ZE VOICE IN MA
TETE -- MY HEAD --
TELLS ME YOU ARE A
MOS' SKILLFUL FIGHTER.
AN' BATROC, HE LOVES
TO MEET ZE SKILLFUL
FIGHTERS!

LET US SEE
WHICH OF US IS ZE
MOST SKILLFUL, HEIN?

AHP-- AHP--



YOUR
ENERGY-WALL,
FOR INSTANCE--

--WILL ONLY
PROTECT YOU... AS
LONG AS IT STANDS!



GOOD, RED
TORNADO, *GOOD!*
KEEP IT UP!

THE REST
OF YOU, THROUGH
THE GAP! WE'RE
TWO LEVELS IN--
LET'S MAKE IT
THREE!

ESTABLISH
A BEACHHEAD,
AND SPREAD OUT
FROM THERE! WE'LL DO
THE SAME WITH THE
NEXT RING OF
DEFENSES--

--AND
THE NEXT --
UNTIL WE'RE
IN!

YOU
HEARD
THE MAN,
GANG!

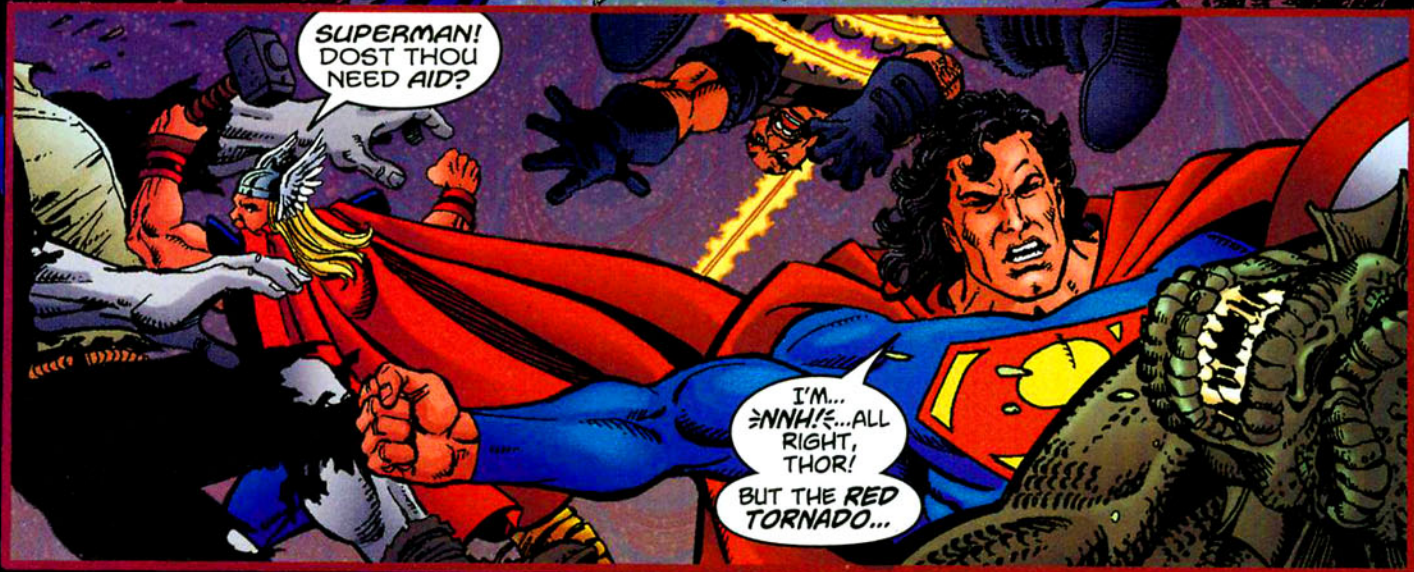
WE
GO--



--AND WE
DON'T SLOW
DOWN!

WE'VE
FACED LONG
ODDS BEFORE--
AND BEAT
'EM!

WE'LL
DO IT AGAIN--
WE ALWAYS
DO!



SUPERMAN!
DOST THOU
NEED AID?

I'M...
NNH!...ALL
RIGHT,
THOR!
BUT THE RED
TORNADO...



I SEE
THY CONCERN!
THE ENERGY-
STORM--IT DOOTH
THREATEN TO
OVERWHELM
HIM!

THE LORD
OF THE LIVING
LIGHTNING, THEN,
SHALL EASE HIS
BURDEN!



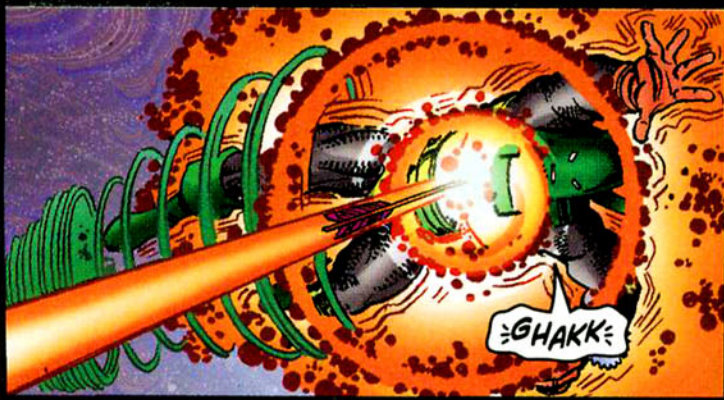
COME,
POWER MOST
UNHOLY!
COME--

--OBEY THY
MASTER!



UH-OH. WHIRLWIND
AT 4 O'CLOCK,
GOLDILOCKS! BUT
NOT TO WORRY--
I GOT YOUR
BACK!

YEAH?
SO, PURPLE
TWERP--



SHAKK



--WHO'S GOT
YOURS?



UH.
GOOD
QUESTION.

IRON
MAN?

WONDY?
ANYONE?



WELL, NOT
MEANING TO BUTT
IN OR ANYTHING,
HAWKEYE--

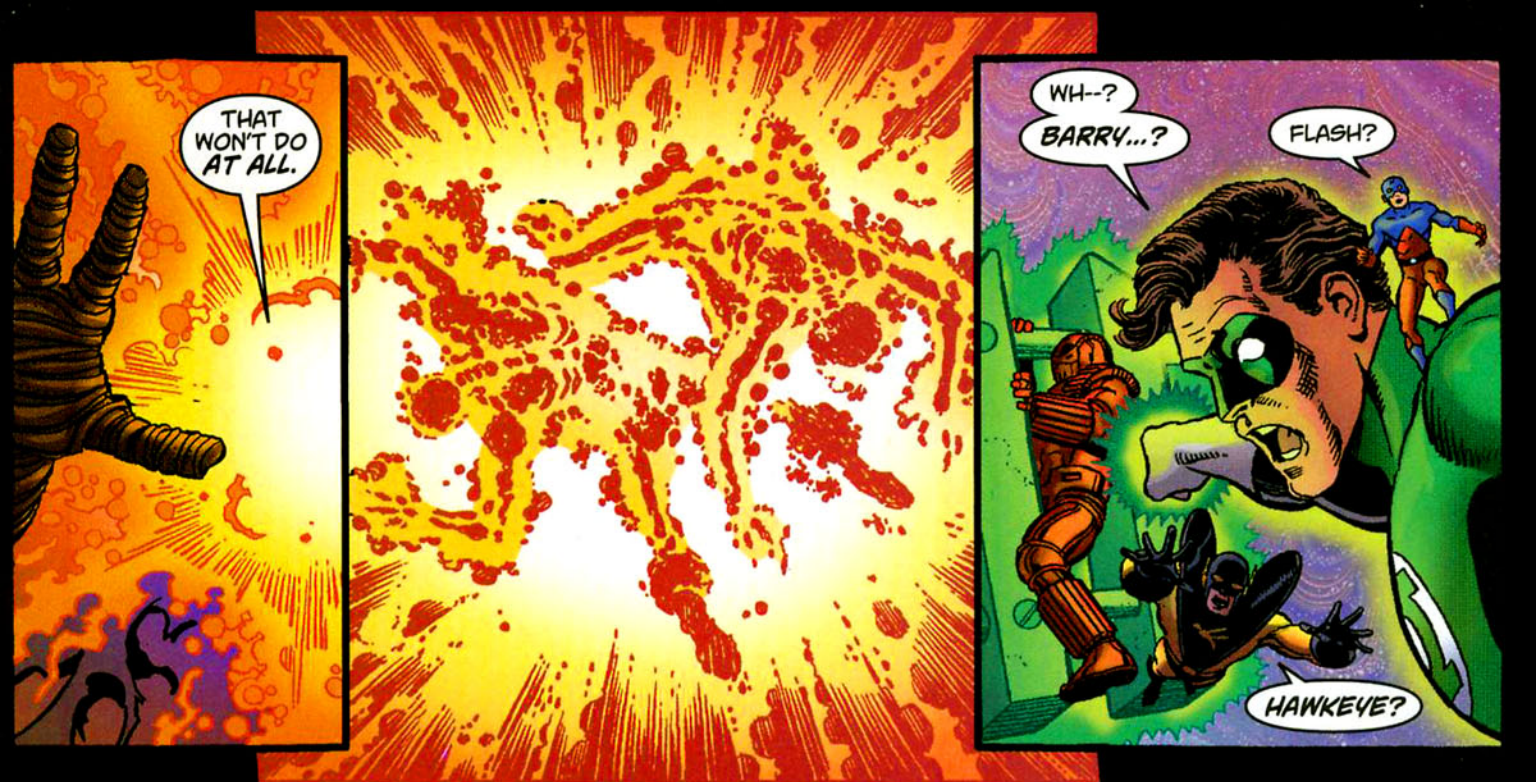
--BUT
WILL I
DO?

WELL...
...SEEN' AS
HOW YOU ASKED
NICELY...



THOSE
TWO. LAUGHING.
DEVIL-MAY-CARE.
INSPIRING.

THAT
WON'T
DO.



SHAKKATOOOMM



WOO. THE POWER -- I REMEMBER -- THE CUBE, AND --



ENOW!

OUR RANKS HATH LOST TWO OF THEIR NOBLEST -- AND THEY DID FALL FIGHTING BRAVELY, GIVING NE'ER AN INCH!

LET US HEED THEIR EXAMPLE --



--AND LET THEIR SACRIFICE BE NOT IN VAIN!



GOT YOU, RAY!

THANKS, UH--

WE HAVE MET, RIGHT? IT'S GETTING SO HARD TO TELL...



CAN'T DO MUCH WITHOUT ARROWS, SO--

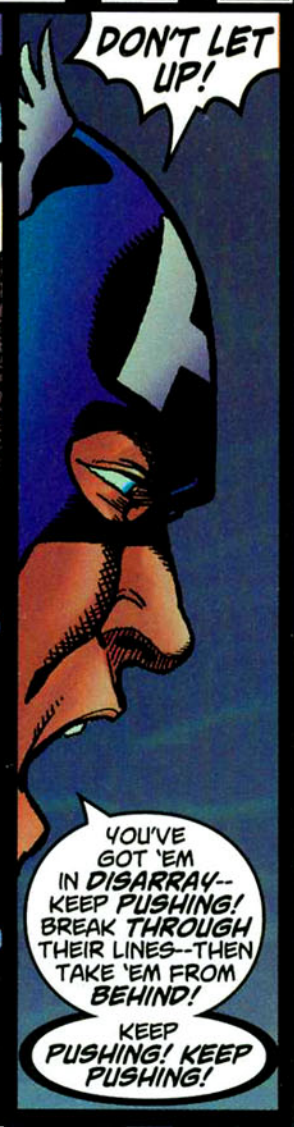
SORRY, HAWKEYE--



--YOU WERE EVEN BETTER AT BEIN' A PAIN IN THE BUTT THAN ME, AND THAT'S SAYIN' SOMETHING--

--BUT I'LL MAKE EVERY ONE OF YOUR SHAFTS COUNT.

EVERY ONE.



DON'T LET UP!

YOU'VE GOT 'EM IN DISARRAY-- KEEP PUSHING! BREAK THROUGH THEIR LINES-- THEN TAKE 'EM FROM BEHIND!

KEEP PUSHING! KEEP PUSHING!

AND THEY DO.

THEY DO.

THEIR ENEMIES MULTIPLY
SEEMINGLY WITHOUT LIMIT.
AND STILL THEY FIGHT.

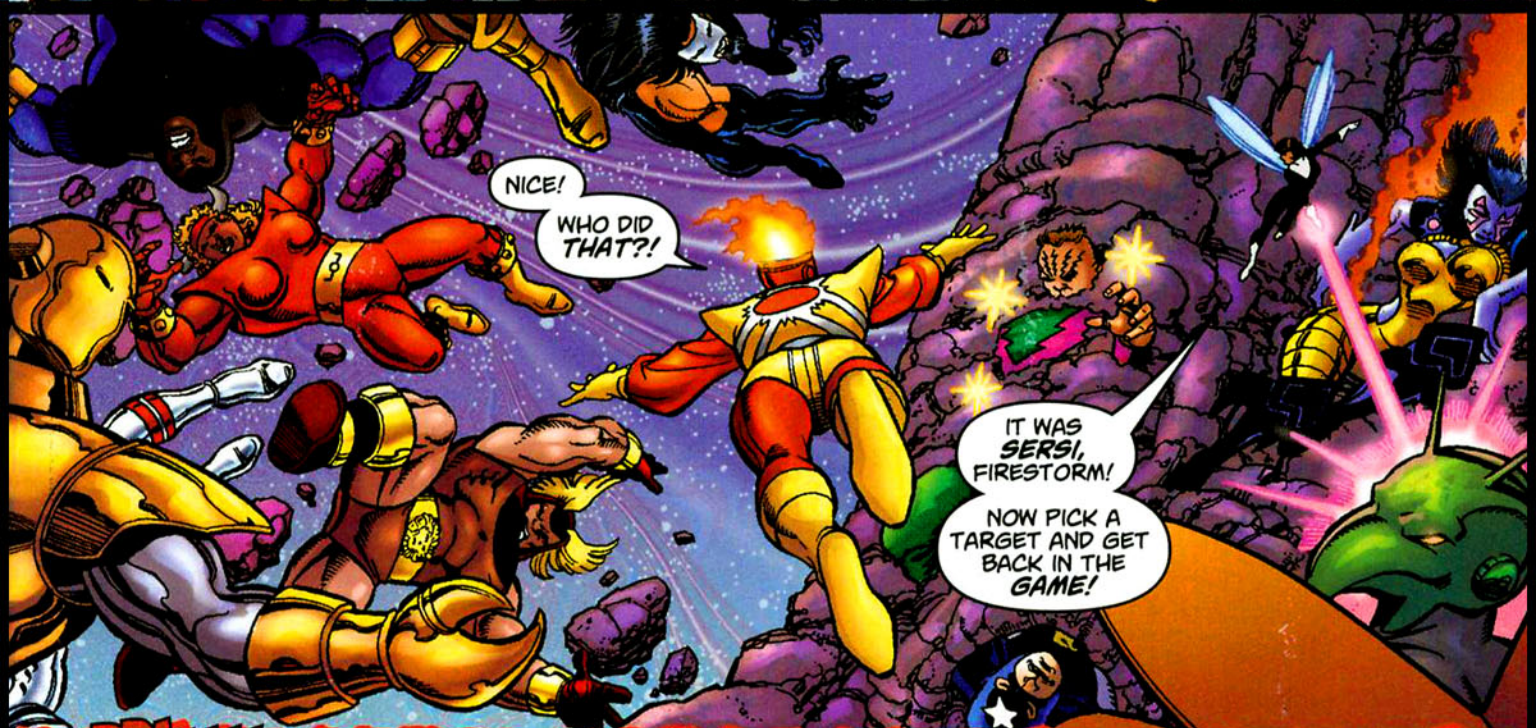
THEIR OWN NUMBERS
SHIFT AND CHANGE
WITHOUT WARNING.

AND STILL
THEY FIGHT.

CHAOS ASSAILS THEM
ON ALL SIDES, AND ANY
LESSER HEROES WOULD
BE OVERWHELMED.

BUT CAPTAIN AMERICA'S
KEEN MIND COMPENSATES
FOR EVERY NEW SURPRISE.

J'ONN J'ONZZ'S TELEPATHY
TRANSMITS HIS ORDERS
INSTANTLY TO WEARYING
CHAMPIONS AND NEW
ARRIVALS ALIKE--





OH, NO!

THE MIND-LINK, IT'S GONE!

J'ONN?

MANHUNTER? J'ONN? ARE YOU THERE? J'ONN!

BLAST IT, CHRONAL CHAOS GOT HIM. I'D BETTER GET OUT THERE, AND--



YOU'RE GOING NOWHERE, CAPTAIN.

WHO?



I'M PROMETHEUS.

I'VE JUST UPLOADED BATMAN'S FIGHTING SKILLS.



THAT'LL BE MORE THAN ENOUGH TO DEFEAT YOU.



OH?



HE WAS FAST. AND QUITE SKILLED, FOR SUCH A--

YOU IN THE CAPE.

YOU DOWNED BATROC.

NOW FACE US.



GOOD DAY, BATMAN.

COULD YOU PERHAPS USE AN EXTRA HAND?



OR MAYBE SIX?



IF YOU'VE GOT NOTHING BETTER TO DO...



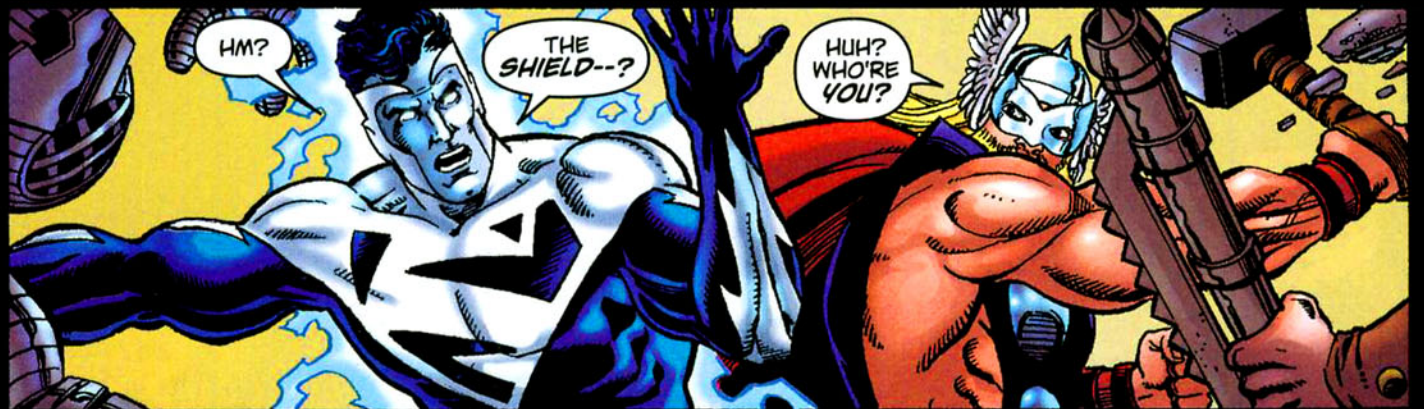
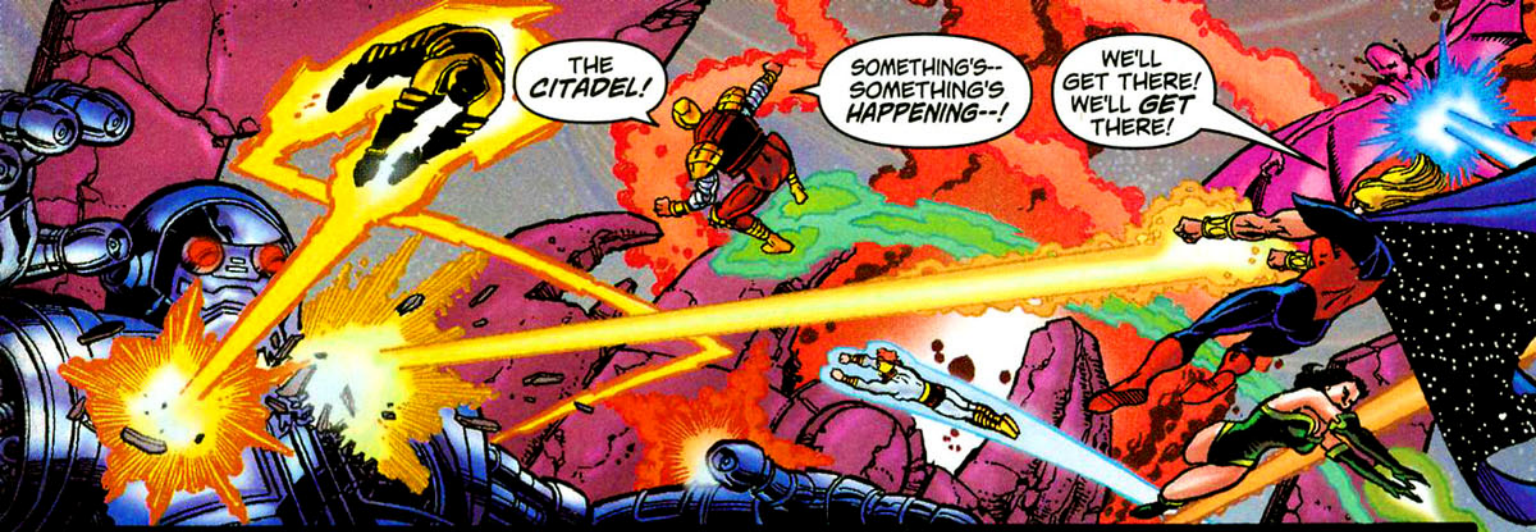
I--I BEGIN TO SEE NOW. WHAT METRON MUST HAVE BEEN HINTING AT.

NO, I AM NOT MERELY A TRUTH-SEEKER. FOR NOW THAT THE TRUTH IS IN MY GRASP, I FIND THAT IT IS NOT ENOUGH!

YOU DENIED ME! UNIVERSES, WORLDS, HEROES, ALL--DENIED ME MY GOAL, MY ANSWERS!

AND YOU MUST PAY FOR THAT!







AND ON
IT GOES.

THEY SMASH GUARD TOWERS,
GUN EMPLACEMENTS,
FORCE-FIELD WALLS.



EVERY VICTORY
HARD-FOUGHT.



EVERY INCH OF GROUND PAID
FOR IN SWEAT AND BLOOD.



AND WHEN IT LOOKS,
FOR A MOMENT--



--LIKE THERE
MIGHT BE HOPE--



WE'VE
GOT THEM
ON THE
RUN.



YES,
AND--



WAIT.
AT THE
CITADEL!
WHAT'S--



I'M...I'M BACK!
WHEREVER I WAS,
I TRACED MY PATH
BACK VIA CHAOS-
MAGIC, AND--

OH, MY
LORD.

THAT'S
ETERNITY--
AND HIS COUNTERPART
FROM THE LEAGUE'S
UNIVERSE, NO
DOUBT!

IF KRONA
CAN IMPRISON
THEM...!



YOU
DENIED
ME! AND YOU
WILL DIE
FOR IT!

ALREADY YOUR
STRENGTH FAILS!
ALREADY YOU SUFFER
AND WRITHE, WHOLE
GALAXIES
COLLAPSING
WITHIN YOU!
SEEK YOUR
PETTY TRUTHS,
METRON--



--I SHALL TEAR MINE FROM
THE CORPSES OF TWO
COSMOSES! I AM KRONA!
AND I DO NOT SEEK!

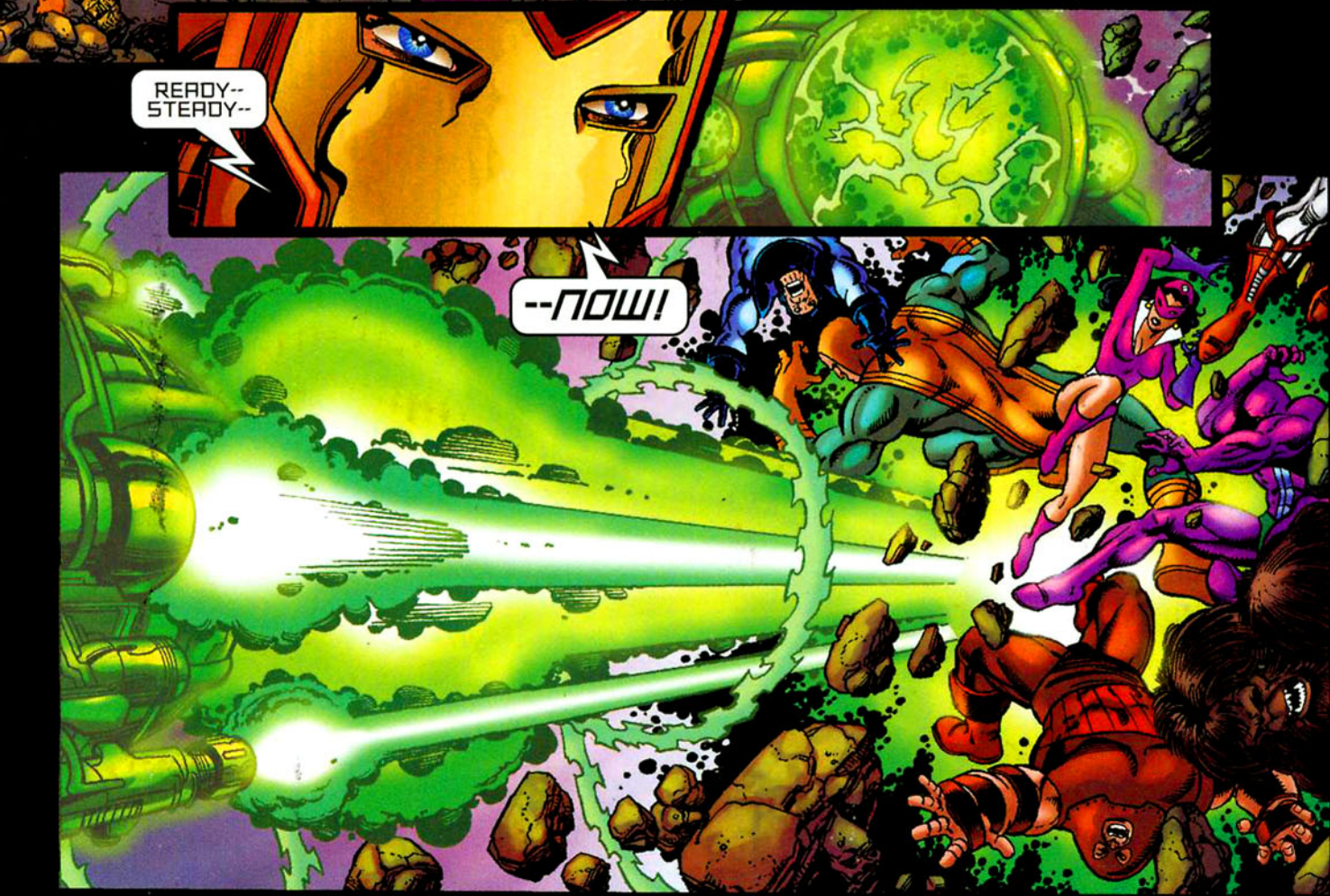
I
TAKE!



WANDA,
DOES WHAT
I'M SEEING
MEAN WHAT
I FEAR IT
DOES?

IT'S...BAD. I'M TRYING
TO REACH INTO THE
CHAOS-FIELD--BRING
MORE OF US THROUGH,
KEEP MORE OF
THEM OUT--

BUT JAN,
I CAN TELL...
WE'RE ALMOST
OUT OF TIME...!



READY--
STEADY--

--**POW!**





H-HUH?

GLAD I AM, THEN, THAT I AM ONLY HALF ATLANTEAN. EVEN SO, MY HEAD POUNDS LIKE THE TREAD OF GIGANTO...



NOW WHAT IN THE NAME OF LITTLE GREEN APPLES--?

MARRINA?

YOU!

IT WAS YOU, WASN'T IT?



YES, PLASTIC MAN. I HAVE A... MEASURE OF CONTROL OVER OCEAN LIFE. THEIR MINDS WERE MORE COMPLEX THAN YOUR AVERAGE HALIBUT--

--AND IT WAS... EXHAUSTING... BUT I MANAGED TO SHUT THEM DOWN.



SORRY, NAMOR. IT WAS THE ONLY--

UH, GUYS? GUYS?!



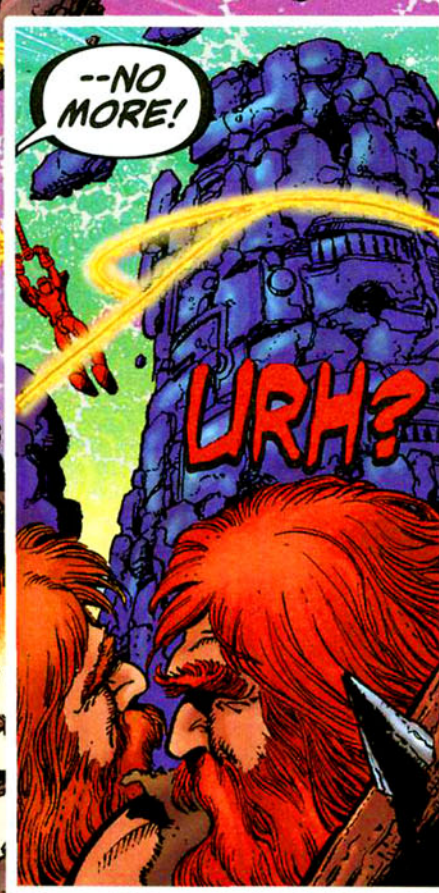
UH-OH.

YEAH, THAT'S WHAT I WAS GONNA SAY, BUT I COULDN'T THINK OF THE WORDS...



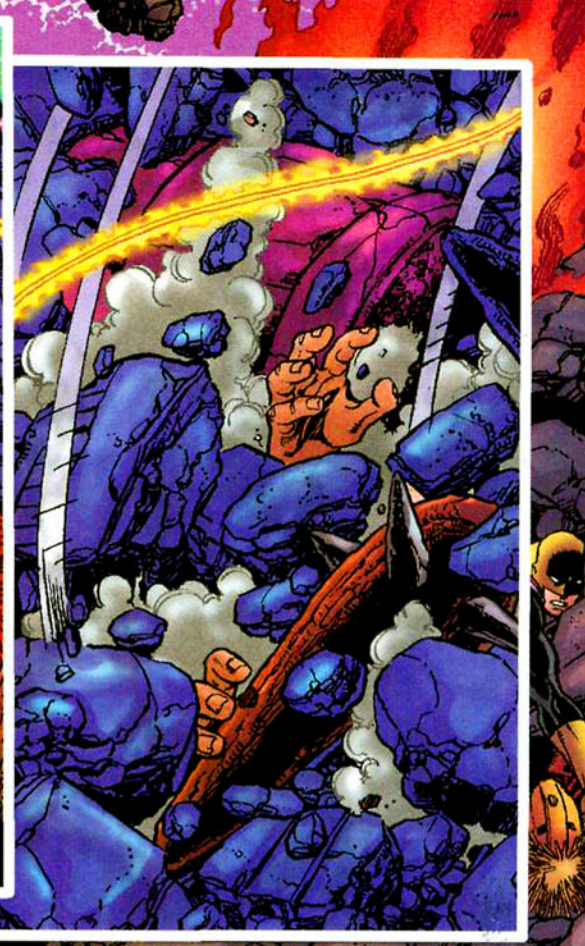
IS THERE NO END TO THEM?

BY THE BOW OF ATHENA, I SAY--



--NO MORE!

URH?



LEAGUERS, AVENGERS--GO! YOU HAVE MORE IMPORTANT THINGS TO DO THAN TO STALL IN FRUITLESS COMBAT HERE!

I WILL GUARD THIS APPROACH--AND I SWEAR TO YOU THAT NO ONE WILL PASS WHILE I LIVE. NO ONE!



NOT... WHILE I LIVE...

HEY, STAR-SHORTS!



THOUGHT I MIGHT HANG, IN CASE YOU GET BORED. WE COULD TALK GIRL TALK--

--YOU KNOW, ASS-KICKING, NAME-TAKING, LIKE THAT.

AYE, AND I STAND WITH YOU AS WELL, DAUGHTER.



I...AM HONORED. AND I THANK YOU.

FORWARD, THEN--FOR THE GLORY OF GAËA!



WELL,
WELL.

"A" FOR EFFORT,
BLUE-BOY--YOU'VE
REACHED THE
MASTER'S INNER
STRONGHOLD.

BUT THIS
IS AS FAR AS
YOU GO!

OH.

YOU'RE
GOING TO
STOP ME?



NO--BUT
PERHAPS WE
SHALL.

GH-UHH!



K-KRYPTONITE...!

HOW
STRANGE.

I WOULD
SWEAR THIS
WAVELENGTH OF
RADIATION WAS
MEANINGLESS
NONSENSE, BUT--

BUT THAT
BALD GUY WHO
SHOWED YOU HOW TO
DO IT KNEW HIS STUFF
AFTER ALL, EH,
RADIOACTIVE MAN?

JUST LIKE HE
TOLD ME THAT **RED
SUN RADIATION**
WOULD MESS UP OUR
BOY HERE--DRIVE OUT
THE JUICE HE NEEDS!

>KHXX<
INTERNAL...
>GZK< DAMAGE...
CAN'T...STAY
ACTIVE...

BUT IF >ZKK<
SOLARR SPEAKS
TRUE...PERHAPS
I CAN...AID
SUPERMAN...

...WITH >KKX<
REMAINING
STORES...OF
SOLAR ENERGY...



HNNNNNN...

ALL RIGHT...
RADIOACTIVE MAN,
WAS IT? AND
SOLARR?
A GOOD MAN
JUST **DIED** TO
GIVE ME ANOTHER
CHANCE AT YOU
AND YOUR
MASTER.
SO LET'S
TRY THIS AGAIN,
SHALL WE?





SO HOW'RE
WE DOING,
WANDA?

IT'S
HARD...HARD
TO TELL!

I THINK...WE'RE
BLOCKING KRONA
FROM BRINGING MORE
REINFORCEMENTS,
BUT...

...THERE MAY BE
ONLY SECONDS
LEFT...



WRAM
WRAM
WRAM

BLAST IT!

THIS IS IT--
THE LAST WALL,
KRONA'S FINAL
LINE OF
DEFENSE!

BUT IT'S
ENERGIZED--



--SOME KIND OF
POWERFUL
FORCE-FIELD--

--AND I CAN'T--
CAN'T--

YOUR
STRUGGLES
ARE FUTILE,
STORMGOD.

YOU
CANNOT STAND
AGAINST US ALL--
YOU WILL FALL
HERE.

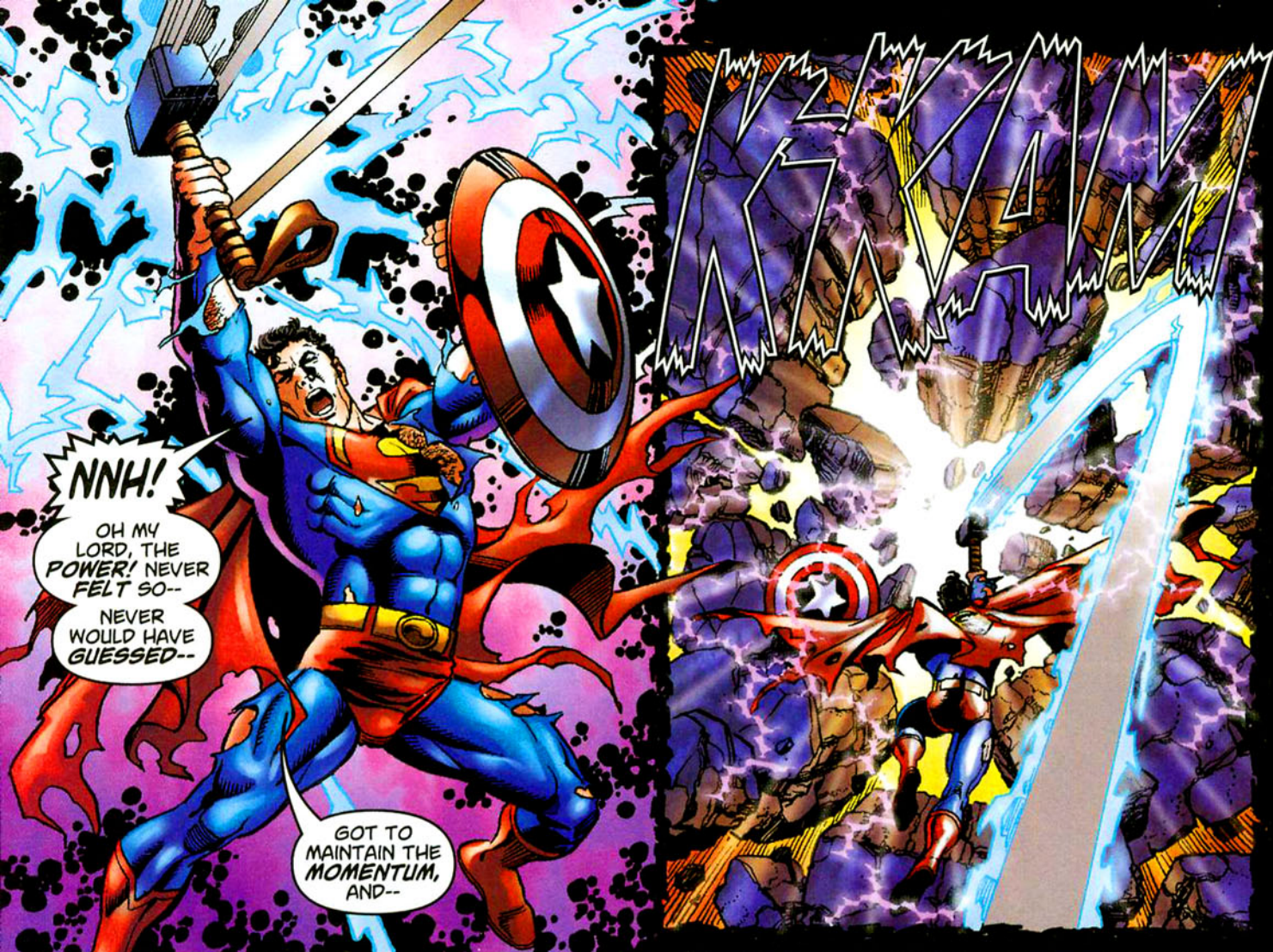
EH?

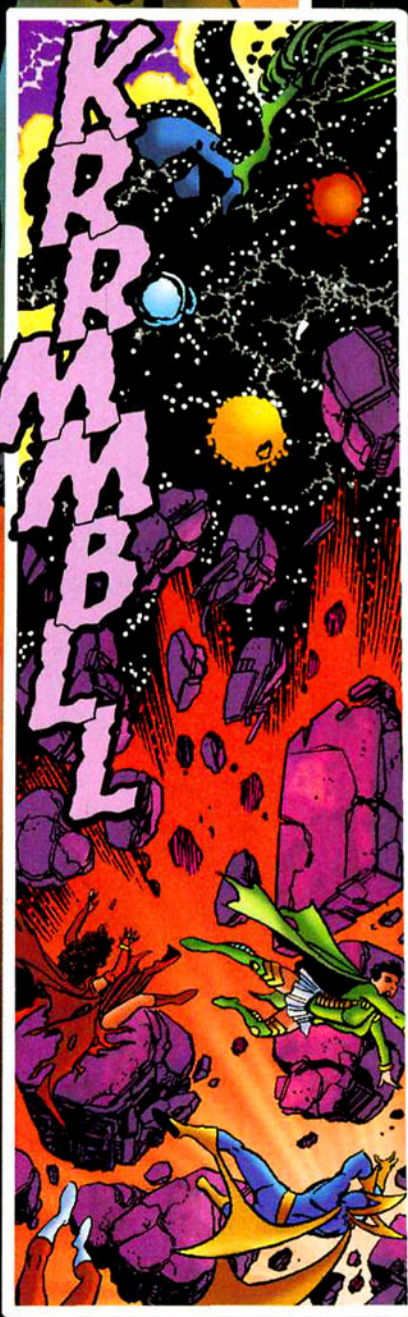
AYE?

PERHAPS--
PERHAPS I SHALL,
BUT--

SUPERMAN!

DO
THOU WELL
WITH IT!





FOOLS.
POOR, DELUDED
FOOLS.

YOU THOUGHT
ME DISTRACTED,
INATTENTIVE TO
YOUR ATTACKS.
YOU WERE
WRONG.

I KNOW ALL
THAT HAS HAPPENED--
ALL THAT CAME HERE,
ALL THAT FOUGHT, ALL
THAT FELL. A MERE
FRACTION OF MY
MIND OBSERVED
EVERYTHING.

AND THIS IS
THE LAST OF YOU.
HELPLESS AGAINST
MY MIGHT.

YOU GAVE
YOUR ALL TO GET
THIS FAR. BUT YOU ARE
FINISHED. FINISHED
FOREVER.

HIS VOICE HAS A RASP
OF TRIUMPH TO IT, OF
CHALLENGE, AS IF
EXPECTING A REPLY.
ONE MORE ASSAULT.
ONE MORE FOE.

BUT HE KNOWS THERE
WILL BE NO ANSWER.

THERE ARE NONE LEFT
TO OPPOSE HIS WILL.
NONE AT ALL.

HE SMILES. A THIN,
UNPLEASANT SMILE.

AND NOW,
MY RECALCITRANT
UNIVERSES, I TURN MY
FULL ATTENTION
TO YOU.

YOUR CHAMPIONS
STAVED OFF YOUR
DEATHS--BUT ONLY
BRIEFLY. NOW, YOU
SHALL--

WH--?

HEY THERE, KRONA.
LOOKS LIKE YOU
MISCOUNTED.

FLASH?
BUT--I SAW
YOU!
YOU DIED!

IF YOU
SAY SO. I'M
JUST THE
DISTRACTION,
BY THE
WAY.

WHAT?

NO!

HIYA. FLASH HERE GOT US OUT OF THAT
MYSTIC WHAMMY WITH OUR SKINS STILL
MOSTLY UNFRIED--

--AND CAP
THOUGHT WE'D
BETTER LAY LOW,
WAIT FOR THE RIGHT
OPPORTUNITY.

THIS WAS
IT.

OH, THAT
ARROW?
LAST ONE I
HAD...

...A T.N.T.
ARROW.

NO!



NO, YOU
CAN'T--
MY
POWER! NOT
WHILE I STILL
HAVEN'T--

NOT
HALF BAD,
FLASH.



NO!

Nooooooooooooo!



LOOKS
LIKE THAT'S PUT AN
EGGBEATER INTO HIS
GYM SHORTS...



HUH?
WHAT...WHERE
AM...
WAIT. WAS...
BARRY JUST
HERE...?



I'M...NOT SURE, BUT I THINK...WHATEVER THIS WAS, IT'S DONE.

YES, WALLY. THE CHRONAL CHAOS IS FADING.

MY HAND... GONE AGAIN...

ALL THE BODIES-- OUR ALLIES, FALLEN VILLAINS--THEY'VE FADED AWAY.

YEAH.

LOOKS LIKE IT'S JUST US...

...JUST THE GUYS WHO STARTED OUT ON THIS WHOLE SHEBANG.

AND IF ANYONE KNOWS A GOOD SUPER-STRONG CHIROTRACTOR... >NFF!<

WHY'S EVERYONE SO SOMBER? WE WON RIGHT?

YOU WEREN'T HERE FOR MOST OF IT, FLASH. SO MANY FALLEN--

--SO MANY DEAD--

MAYBE NOT, IRON MAN. THERE'S STILL A CHANCE...

HUH? HEY!

CAP! AND THE BIG GREEN GUY!

YES. AND AS I WAS SAYING...

THE OTHER BIG GREEN GUY!

REALITY IS REORDERING ITSELF. WE DO NOT KNOW WHAT THAT WILL BRING. BUT EVEN IF THIS IS THE COST--

--WE CAN TAKE SOLACE IN THE FACT THAT WE DID WHAT WAS NECESSARY.

AND THAT IT IS OVER.

MAYBE NOT. LOOK.

HM?

THERE, IN THE SKY--

--SOME SORT OF RIPPLE--



WH-WHAT--?

GOOD LORD! THE TWIN EARTHS--

A-ARE THOSE--



--HANDS?

KRONA AGAIN?

NO, TRIATHLON...



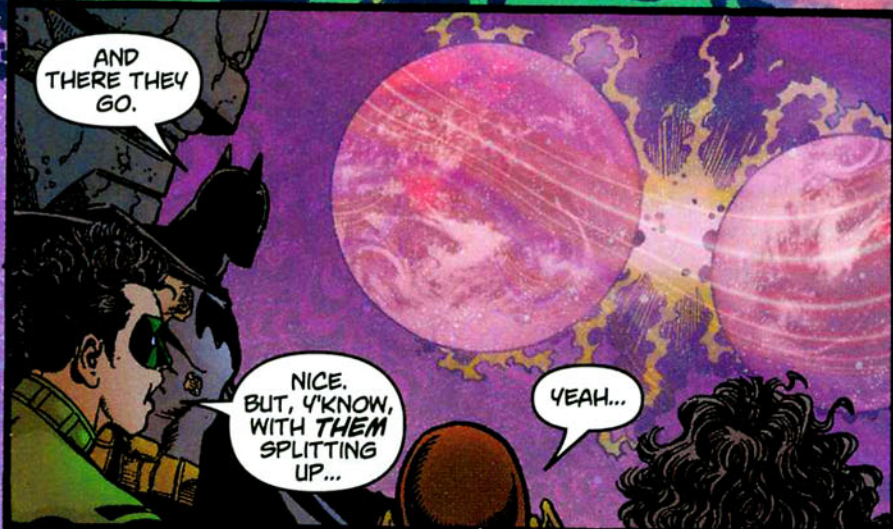
...IT'S NOT.

WE FOUGHT BESIDE HIM EARLIER TODAY. HE IS HAL JORDAN. ONCE GREEN LANTERN. NOW THE SPECTRE.

HE IS ONE OF THOSE WHO PAID THE GREATEST COST TO FIGHT THIS FIGHT. AND EVEN NOW, EVEN RETURNED TO THIS STATE...

...HE FIGHTS ON.

I'M... IMPRESSED.



AND THERE THEY GO.

NICE. BUT, Y'KNOW, WITH THEM SPLITTING UP...

YEAH...



"...WHAT HAPPENS TO THIS PLACE?"

SUPERMAN?



HE'S AN **ANDROID**, I KNOW. BUT I DON'T HEAR ANY **INTERNAL ACTIVITY--PUMPS, FLUIDS, INTERNAL RELAYS, POWER... NOTHING.**

HE GAVE UP **ALL HE HAD**, WITHOUT **HESITATION--**

AND WOULD HAVE GIVEN **MORE**, HAD HE BEEN ABLE.



SUPERMAN! AVENGERS! JOIN THE REST OF US--SWIFTLY! I AM SENSING AN OVERWHELMING ENERGY-SURGE!

HUH?



WHOA--THE **GROUND!** EARTHQUAKE! OR, UH, **SPACEQUAKE**, OR WHATEVER...

--AND WE DARE NOT REMAIN!



THERE'S YOUR **ANSWER** ABOUT THIS PLACE, **LANTERN.**

REALITY'S **REBUILDING** ITSELF...



...AND **GALACTUS** IS RE-FORMING!

LET'S GET **OUT** OF HERE.



HERE, **THOR.**

I'LL--



NNNFF!
WHAT?

ALLOW ME.



THERE IS AN **ENCHANTMENT** 'PON MY HAMMER, LAID BY MY FATHER ODIN. IT IS NOT...**EASILY** LIFTED, BY OTHERS.

I HELD IT BEFORE--



MY FATHER IS STERN, SUPERMAN. BUT NOT **STUPID**. A VERY FEW WORTHIES HAVE BEEN ALLOWED TO **OVERCOME** THE SPELL, IN **DESPERATE** HOURS.

BUT KNOW **THIS**. PERHAPS IT WAS BUT **BRIEFLY**...BUT IT WAS IN **GOOD** HANDS.

And once upon
a time...

...as with all things
that happen
once upon a time...

LET'S GO! LET'S GO!
LET'S GO!

WE'VE GOTTA GET OUT
OF HERE--WHILE
THERE'S STILL A HERE
TO GET OUT OF!

AND I'LL
TELL YOU, WALLY,
WHEN WE GET BACK--

--IF MY
POWER-BATTERY
HASN'T BEEN
REALITY-RESTORED
TO MY APARTMENT--

--SOMEONE'S
IN BIG TROUBLE--!

... the tale reached
an ending.

CAPTAIN.

WHETHER WE
FEAR WE DO TOO
MUCH--OR NOT
ENOUGH--

WE KEEP
TRYING.

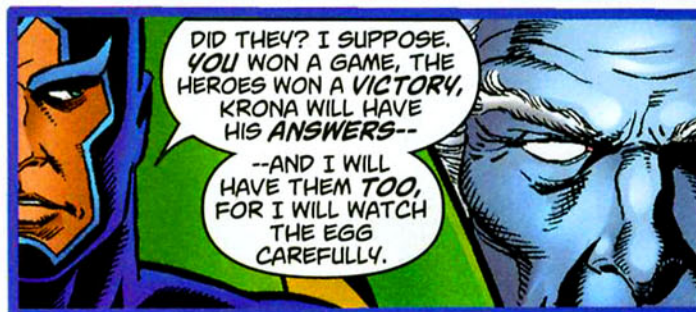
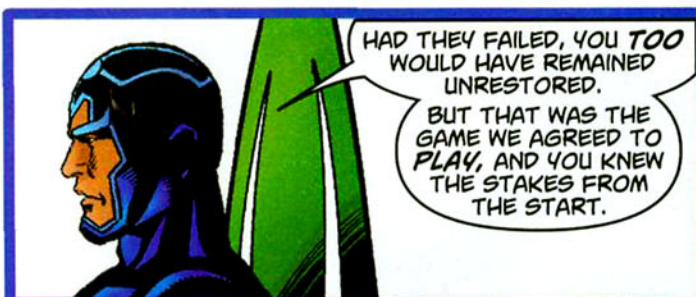
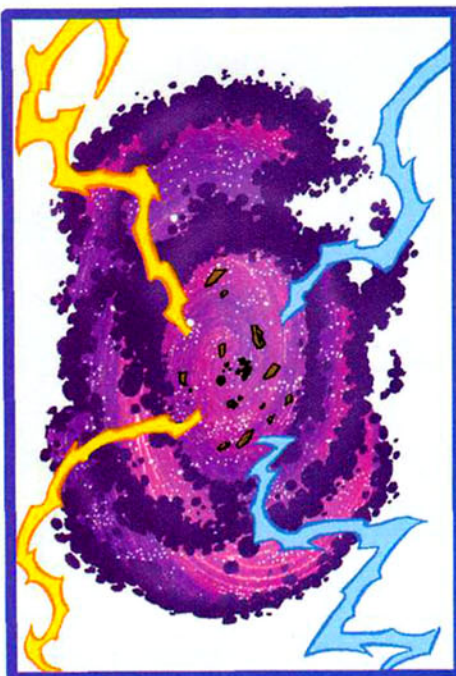
GLAD TO HAVE MET YOU.
ALL OF YOU.

AND NOW THAT WE'VE COME
TOGETHER...WORKED TOGETHER,
OVERCOME OUR DIFFERENCES...

...WE'RE
FORCED TO RETURN,
TO INCOMPATIBLE
WORLDS.

BUT I SUPPOSE...
THAT'S HOW IT
HAS TO BE...

For
all things,
ultimately,
must have an
ending...



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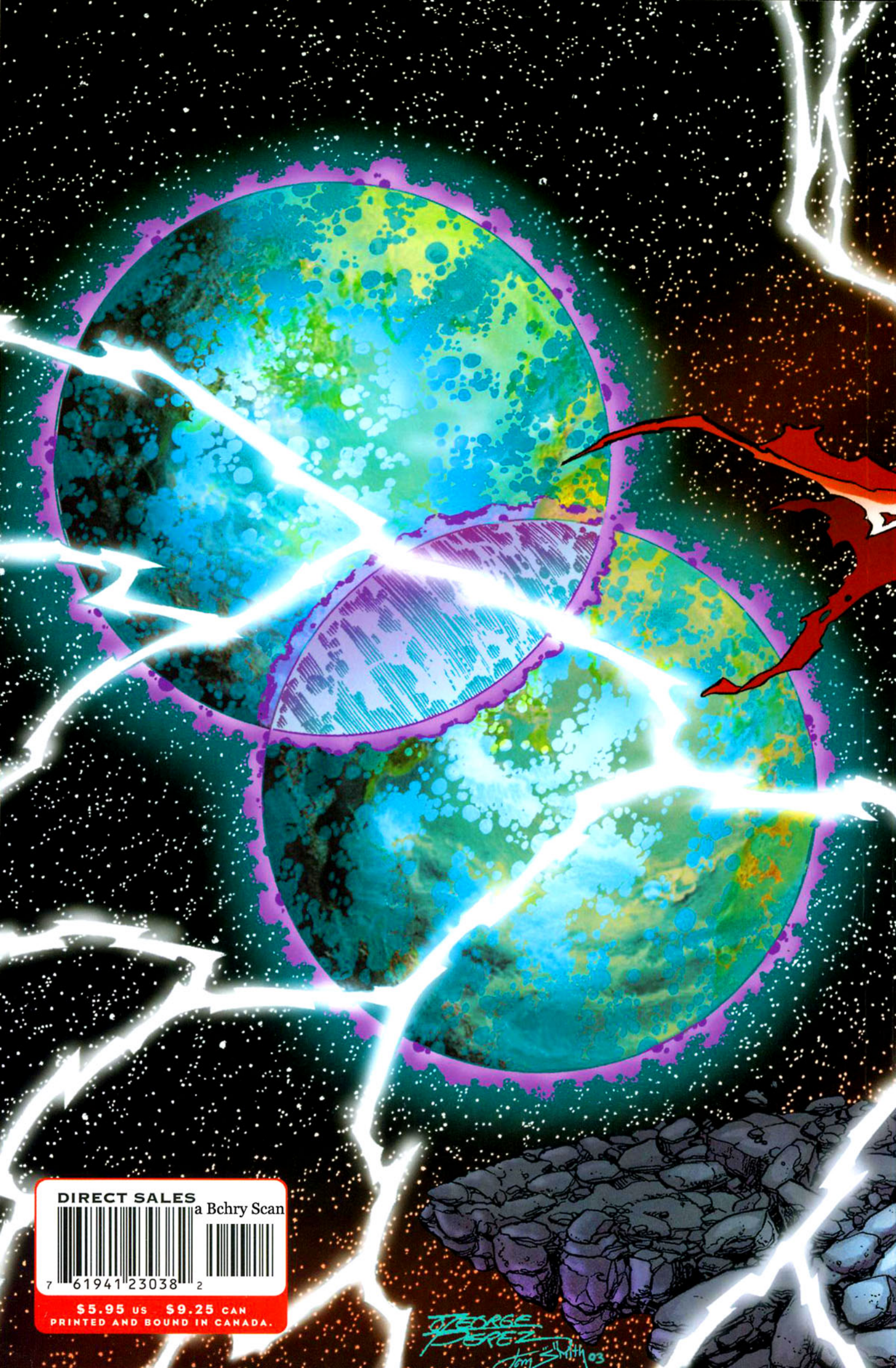
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