

FANTASTIC
1ST ISSUE!

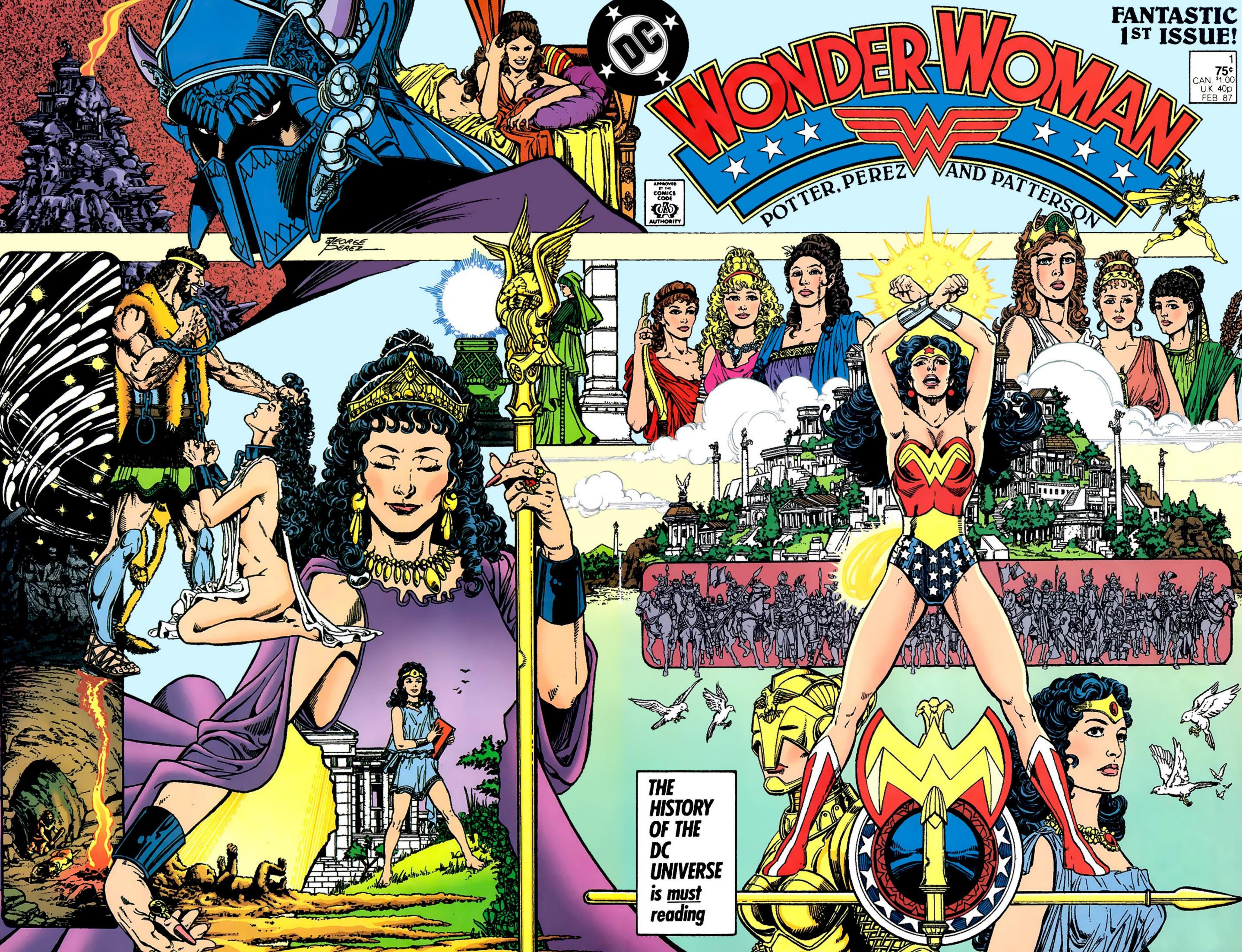
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75¢
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FEB 87

WONDER WOMAN

POTTER, PEREZ AND PATTERSON

APPROVED BY THE
COMICS CODE
CARTOONISTS
AUTHORITY

THE
HISTORY
OF THE
DC
UNIVERSE
is must
reading



THE WONDER OF IT ALL



BY
GEORGE PÉREZ

It's a long way from Titans' Tower to Paradise Island. I'm sure there are some readers out there who are surprised to find me here. After all, I've had stints on some very successful series such as *The New Teen Titans* and *Crisis On Infinite Earths* (both with my friend and long-time partner, Marv Wolfman). What could have possessed me to take on the assignment of revitalizing one of DC's oldest established characters, especially one whose past sales record had not set the industry on fire? Why such a gamble?

Blame John Byrne.

It was the fall of 1985 as I gleefully stalked into DC Comics' offices at 666 Fifth Avenue. *Crisis* was done, finished. Finally, I was free of the monthly grind. One-shot stories, graphic novels, posters—yep, that was it for me for the next five years. But then I heard the talk. The talk of big things happening. Of new beginnings. John Byrne had been commissioned to revamp and revitalize Superman. Frank Miller's *Dark Knight* was inspiring the company to consider new directions on Batman.

And of course, I knew that Wonder Woman was also scheduled for an overhaul. After all, Marv and I had "de-evolved" her in the last issue of *Crisis*. I had initially been asked to take over the new Wonder Woman. After all, I had expressed interest in doing a story with the Amazon Princess before her original book's demise, but now my schedule wouldn't allow it.

I walked into editor Janice Race's office to find out about the future of Diana Prince. I was curious to learn who was going to draw her. Superman had Byrne and Ordway. Batman had Miller and Davis (and later Mazzucchelli). Wonder Woman had...

No one.

A writer, Greg Potter, had been selected but no established artist wanted to handle the new series. After exhaustive searches, it seemed that Wonder Woman would have to be assigned to an unknown. Now, while that may have proven successful, it wouldn't give the book the clout and hopeful fan interest that established names seem to bring, and Wonder Woman needed all the help she could get.

I thought of John Byrne—and of Superman. What a great coup for DC. A top talent and fan-fave on their premier character.

As Janice's eyes looked straight at me, an uncontrollable force rushed from my gut and up through my throat. It forced tongue, lips and vocal chords to act in dramatic unison. "Janice," I heard myself say, "What if I took on Wonder Woman for the first six months—just to get her out of the starting gate?"

I had never been kissed by an editor before. I guess I should thank John Byrne for that, too.

Little did I realize what a chain reaction would follow. Suddenly, there was no stopping that mouth of mine. Ideas spilled forth like a bursting dam. Other creative people got caught in the enthusiasm and volunteered ideas and opinions. There was a divine madness stirring, and at the center of it all was Wonder Woman. After over forty years, the Princess of Paradise Island was finally getting people enthused.

Changes started coming fast and furious. Suddenly, a temporary six-month stay became an unlimited commitment. Janice Race left for other endeavors and Karen Berger took over the editing chores. It was thought a woman's input was vital for the success

of the series featuring comicdom's most well-known heroine, and Karen being one of the most creative and respected editors around didn't hurt matters any (check out *Swamp Thing*, *The Legion of Super Heroes*, and *Blue Beetle* just to name a few of her titles).

The turning point, however, really came when Karen, Greg and I agreed that what made Wonder Woman unique was both her feminism and the Amazon legends with their roots in Greek Mythology. This mythical and mystical angle definitely made Diana something other than a "female Superman."

A lot of research went into this first issue, and my bookshelves are full of reference material on mythology, Greek hairstyles, armor, clothing and even attitudes of the time. Some compromises were made where different references contradicted each other, but no decision was made without thought. We all have fallen in love with this project and want everyone to share in our excitement.

We would also like to take the time to thank everyone who has been so supportive and helpful in getting this book off the ground. Special thanks to P. John Palmer, for research material and insight into the Amazon myth; to Gloria Steinem and Jenette Kahn for a feminist perspective that helped direct this series; to Marv Wolfman, for his support, friendship and getting me hooked on Greek mythology in the first place; and to Michael Margo for the invaluable loan of his encyclopedia. And, of course, to John Byrne.

Upcoming issues will deal further with the history of Paradise Island and of Diana herself. Who is this Diana the Princess was named after? Where did the gun come from? Why does Diana's costume resemble an American flag? For the answers to these and other questions, keep your eyes peeled every 30 days for the next installment of the New Wonder Woman.

Next issue: Steve Trevor as you have never seen him before...The search for Ares begins...And, believe it or not, Etta Candy, too.

"THE GODS ARE DEAD, KILLED BY THE ONE GOD. BETWEEN THE MEN OF THE NEW AND THOSE OF ANCIENT TIMES THERE WILL NO LONGER BE A THOUGHT IN COMMON."
-- FERDINAND LOT

30,000 B.C.--TODAY, YOUR TRIBE CAST YOU OUT! THEY MOCKED YOU-- CALLED YOU USELESS...

...CALLED YOU AN ANIMAL!

ONLY YESTERDAY YOU WERE CALLED A MAN! YOU HUNTED WITH MEN AND FOUGHT WITH MEN.

THAT WAS BEFORE YOU MET THE SABERTOOTH...

...THE ONE WHO BESTED YOU...

...THE ONE WHO TOOK YOUR HAND!



NOW, YOU ARE A MAN NO MORE. FOR MEN ARE HUNTERS -- AND HUNTERS NEED HANDS!

THAT MAKES YOU AFRAID. BUT YOU MUST NOT SHOW YOUR FEAR.

REMEMBER WHAT THE TRIBE TEACHES:

...FEAR IS FOR WOMEN!

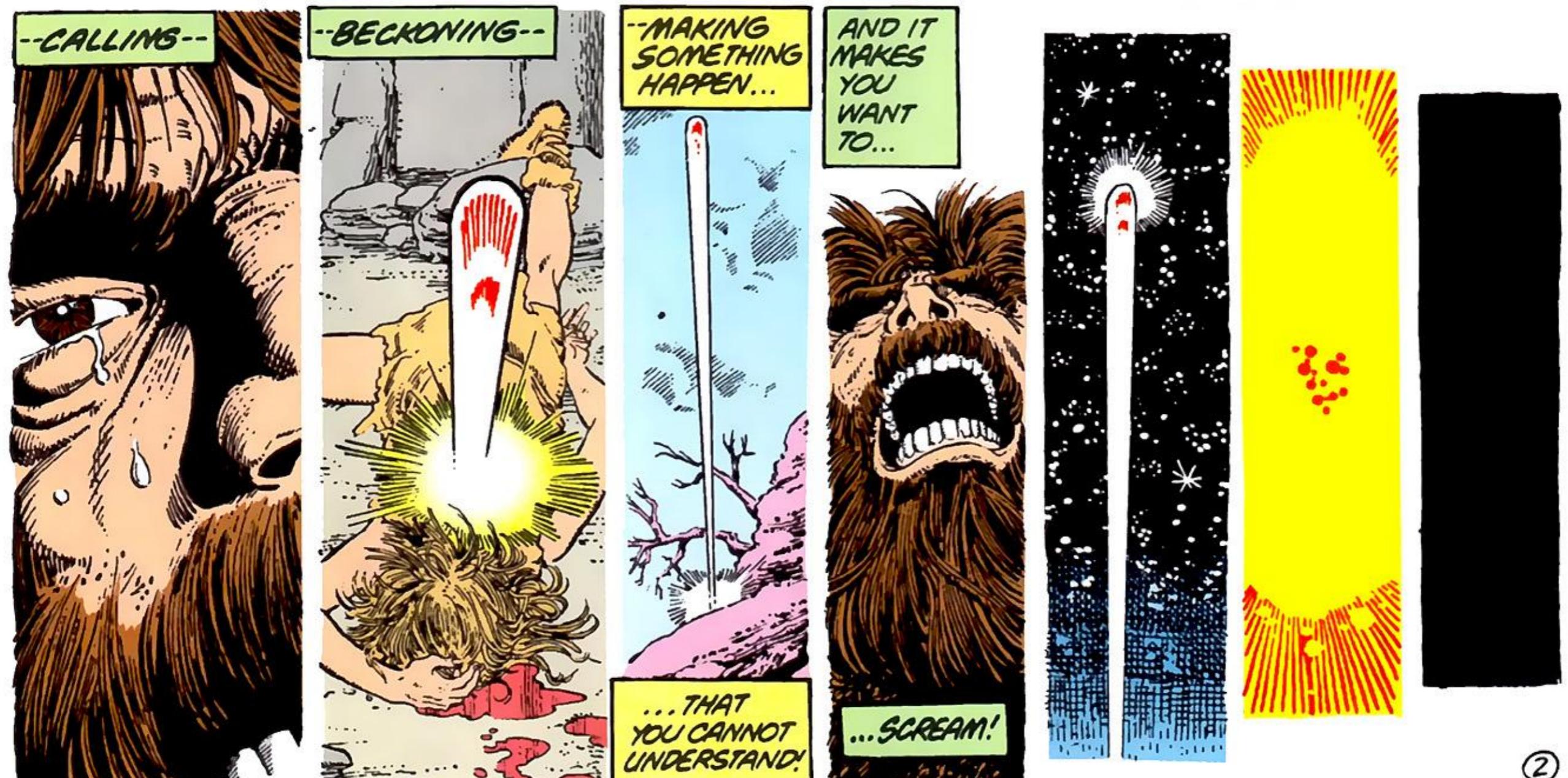
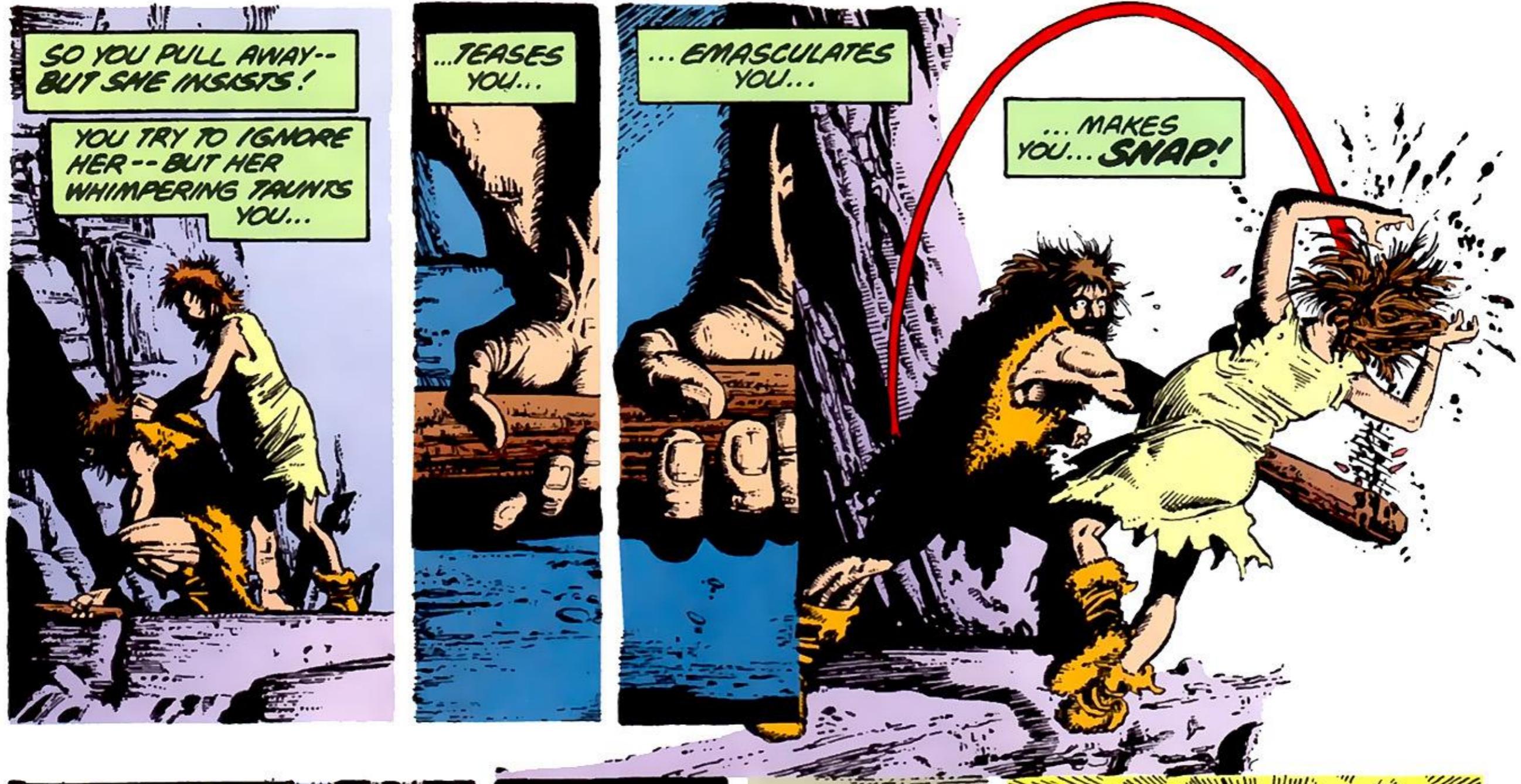
SO YOU HIDE YOUR FACE -- QUELL YOUR TREMBLING.

STILL, SOMEHOW, SHE KNOWS!

AND WHEN SHE TOUCHES YOU...

...WHEN YOU HEAR HER SYMPATHETIC WHINING...





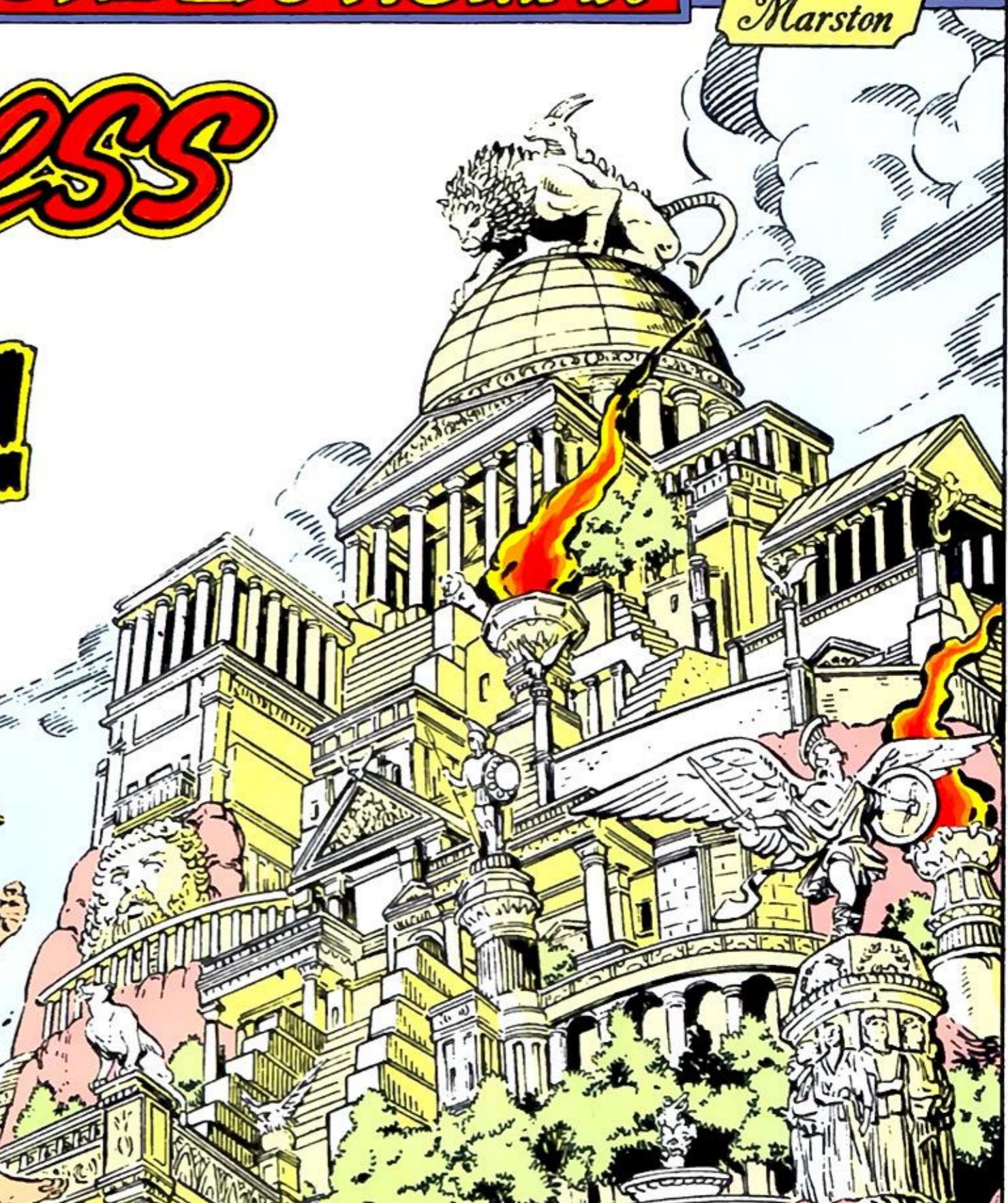
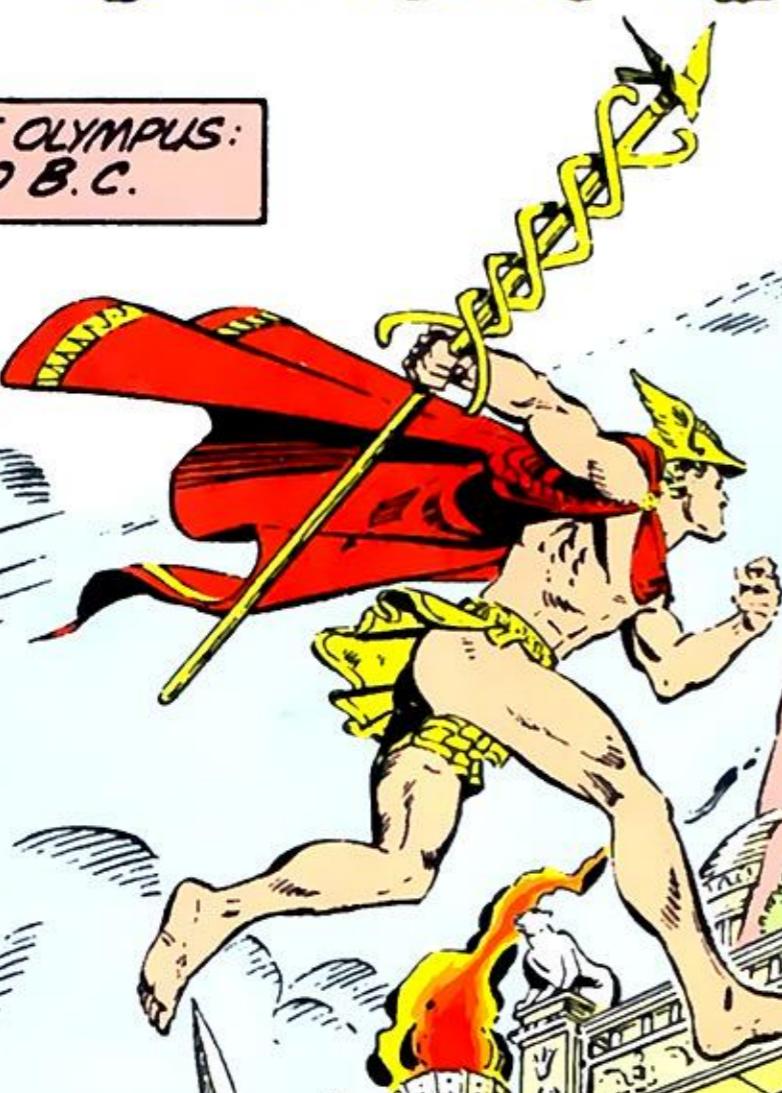
DC Comics Proudly Presents

WONDER WOMAN

created by
William
Moulton
Marston

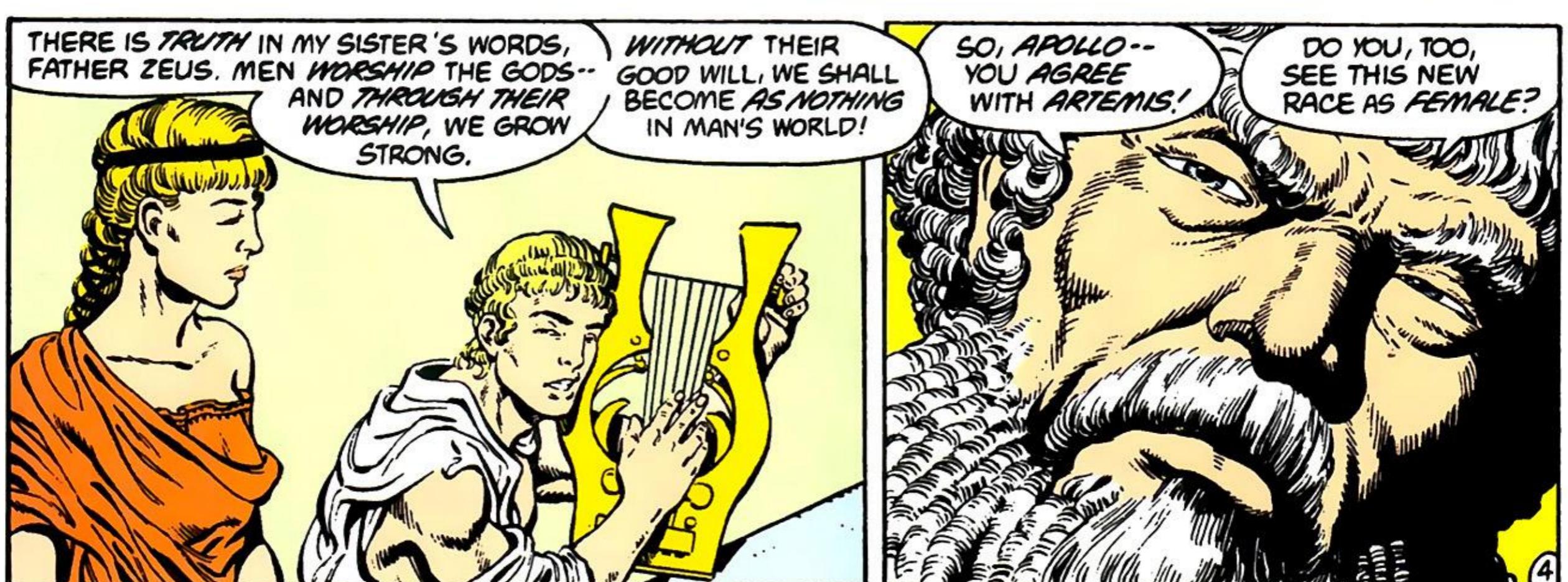
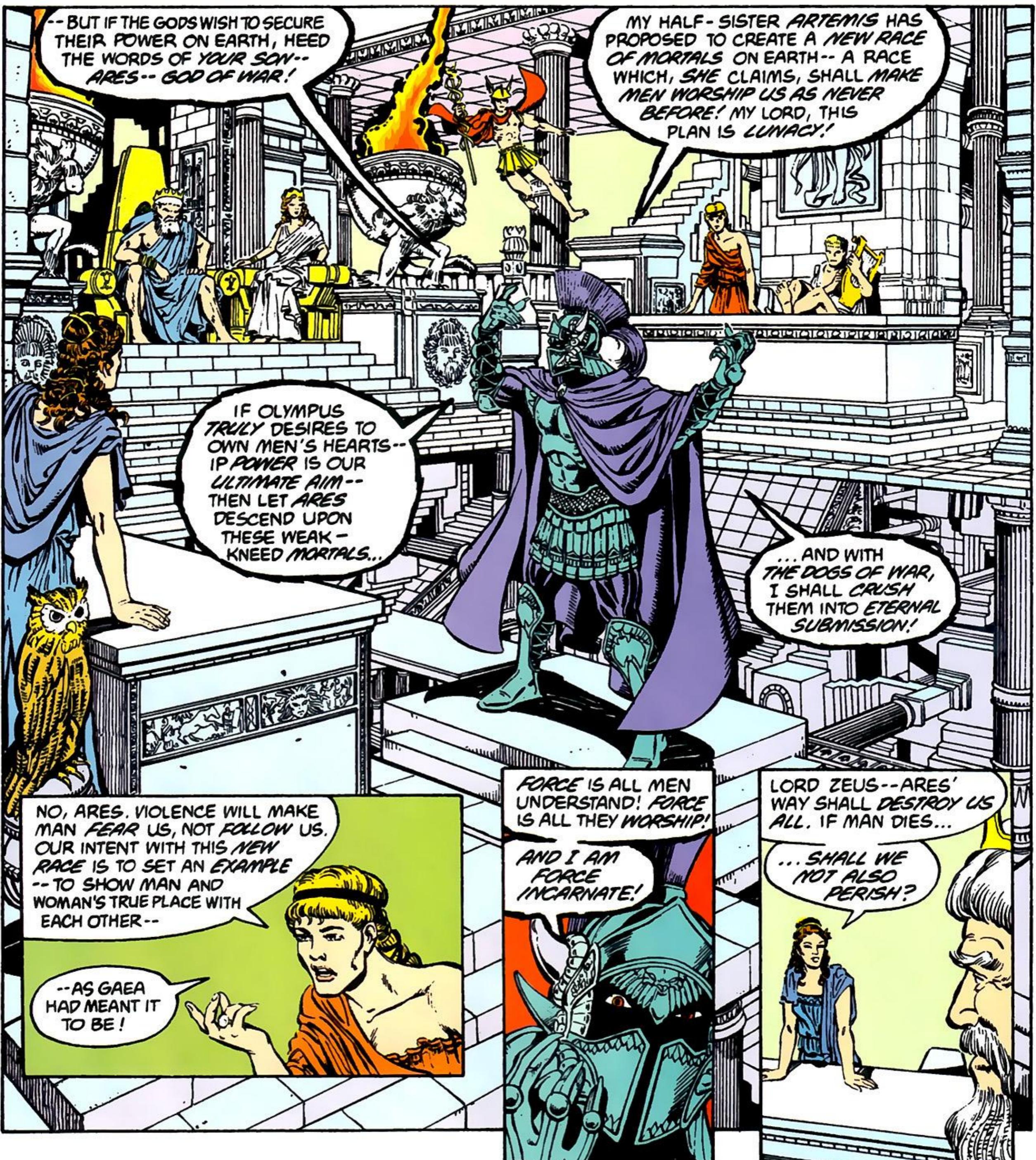
the Princess and the **POWER!**

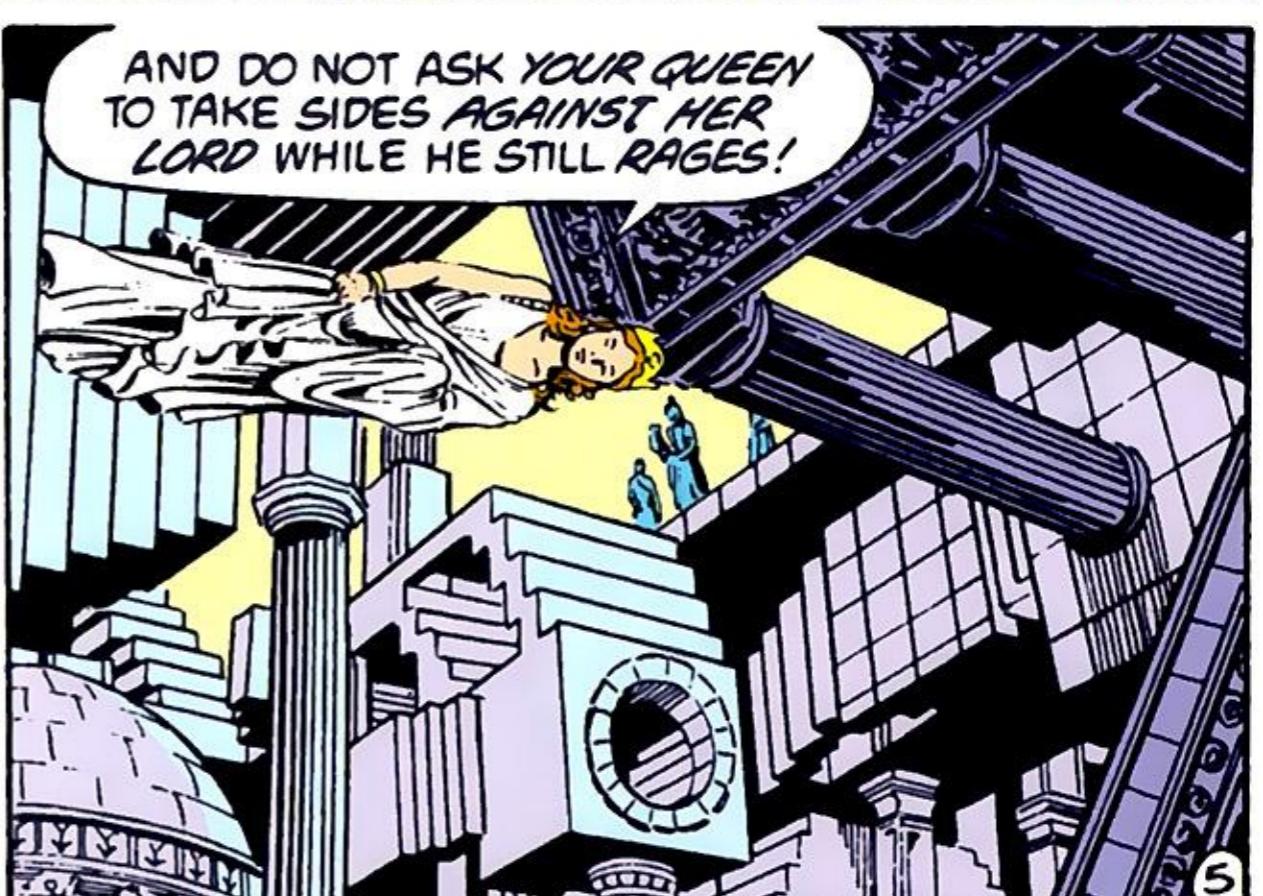
MOUNT OLYMPUS:
1,200 B.C.

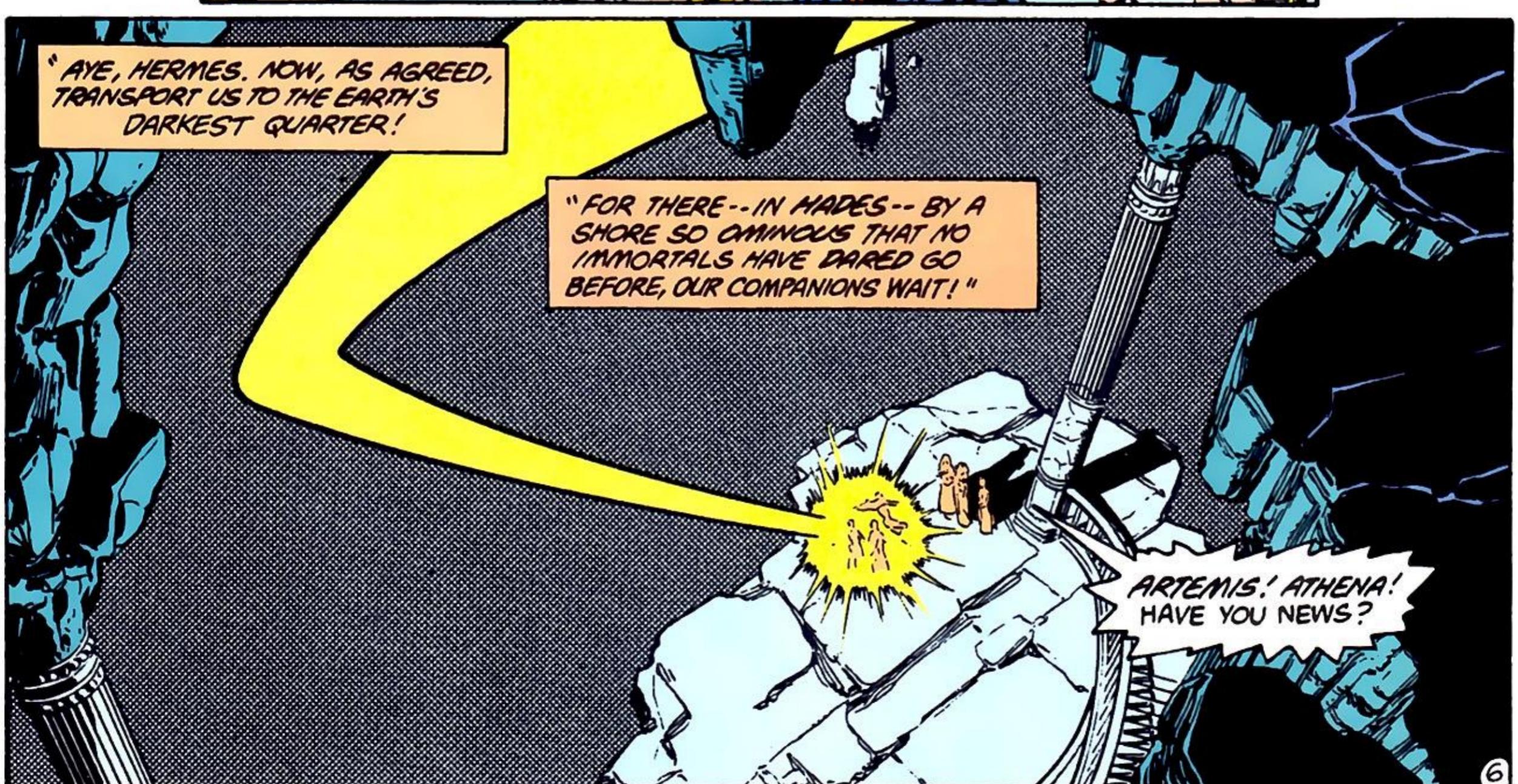
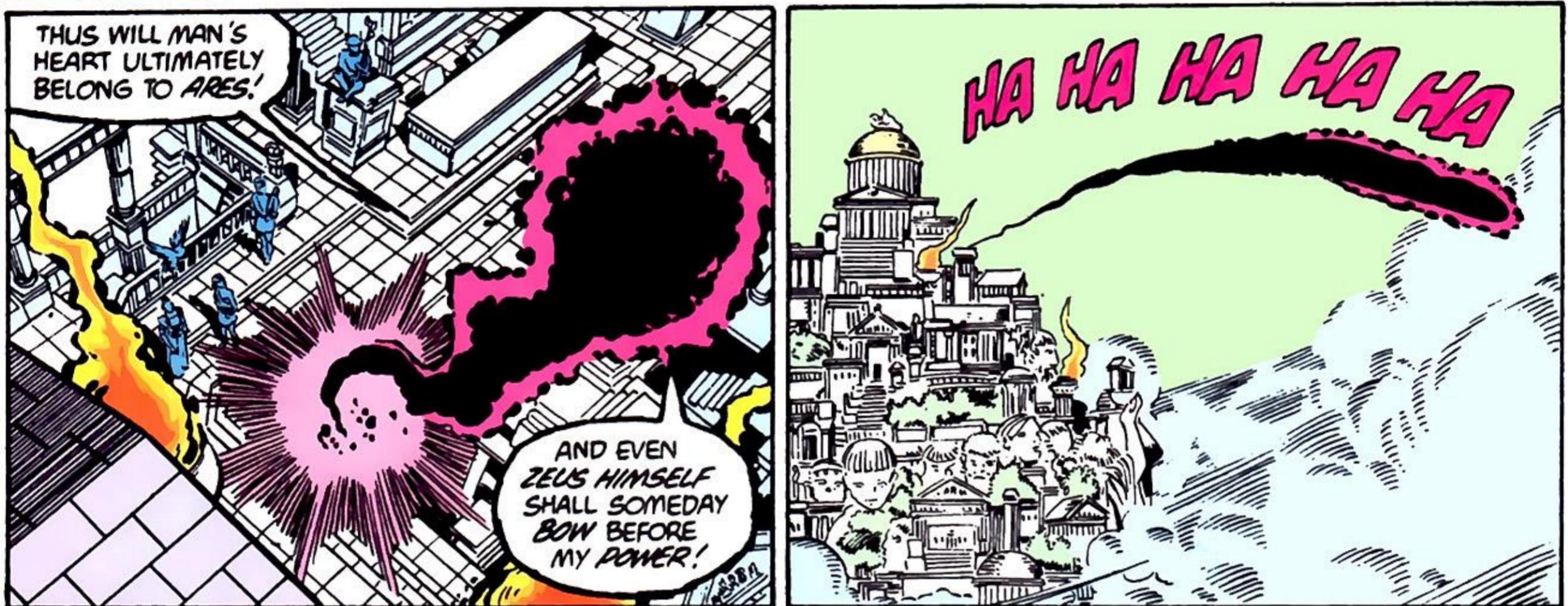
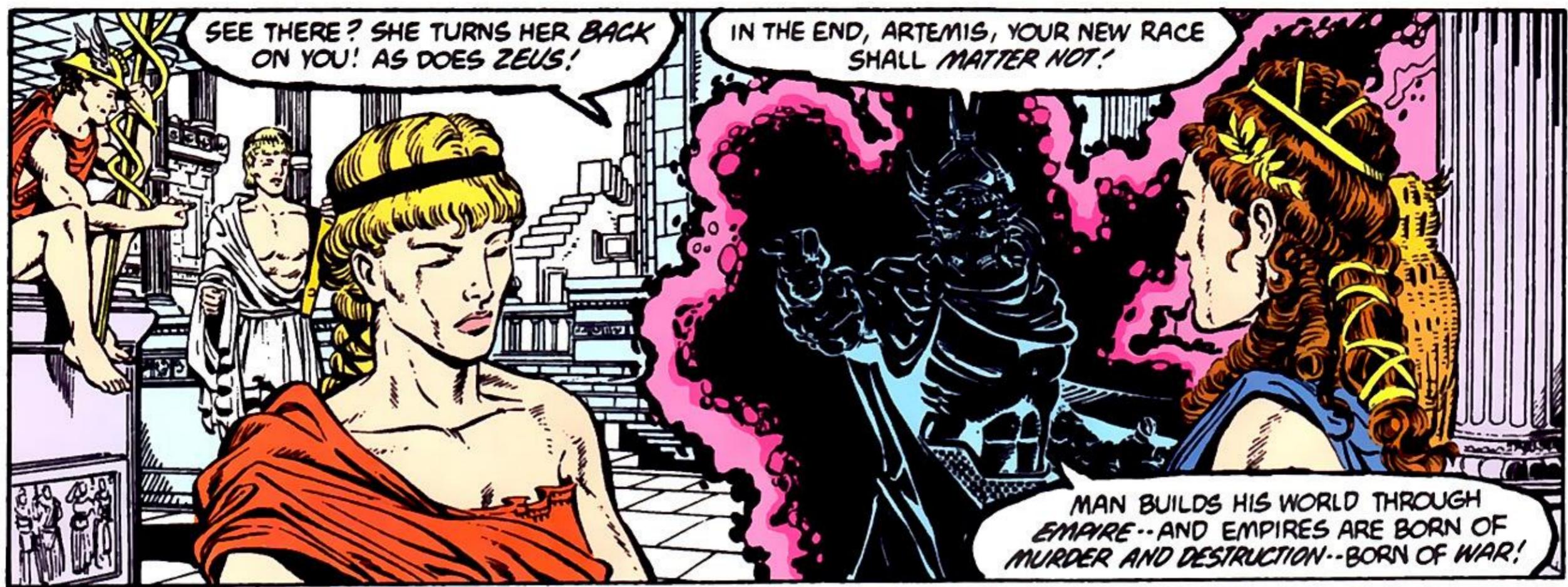


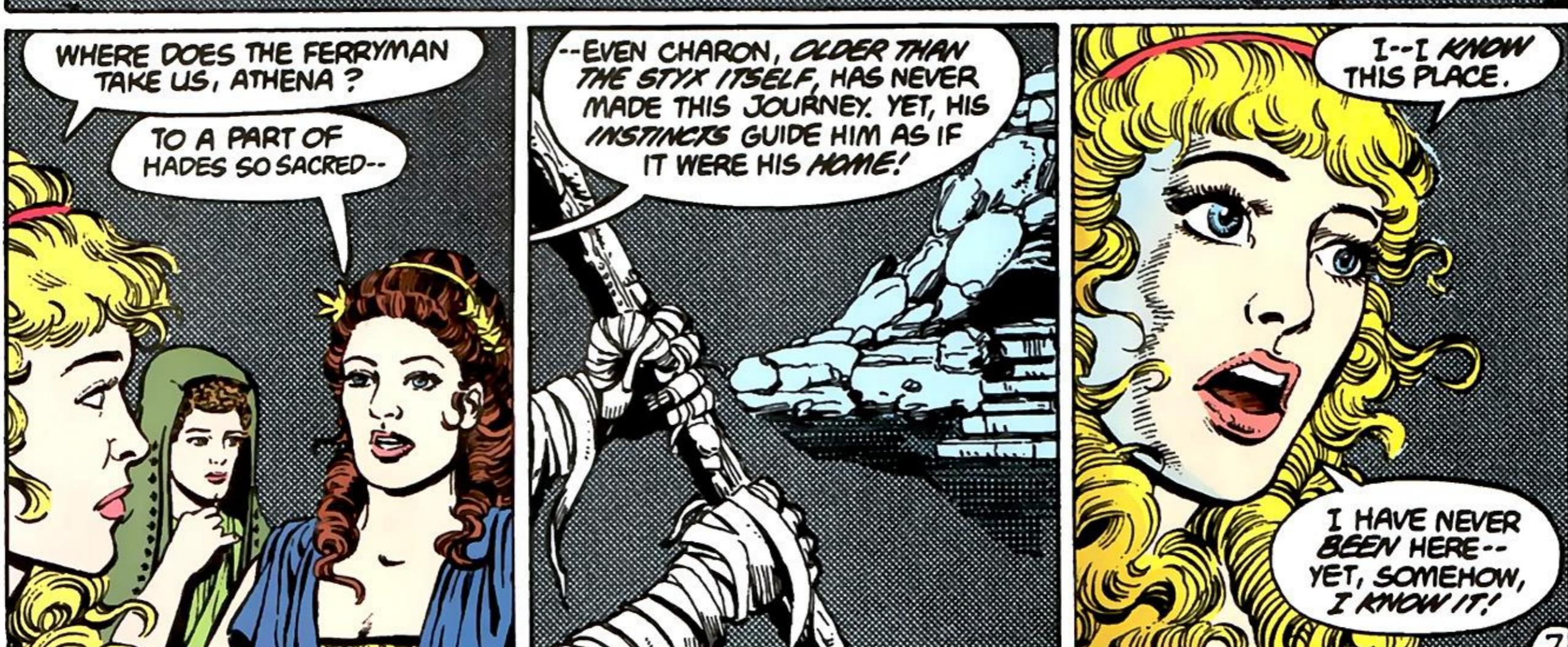
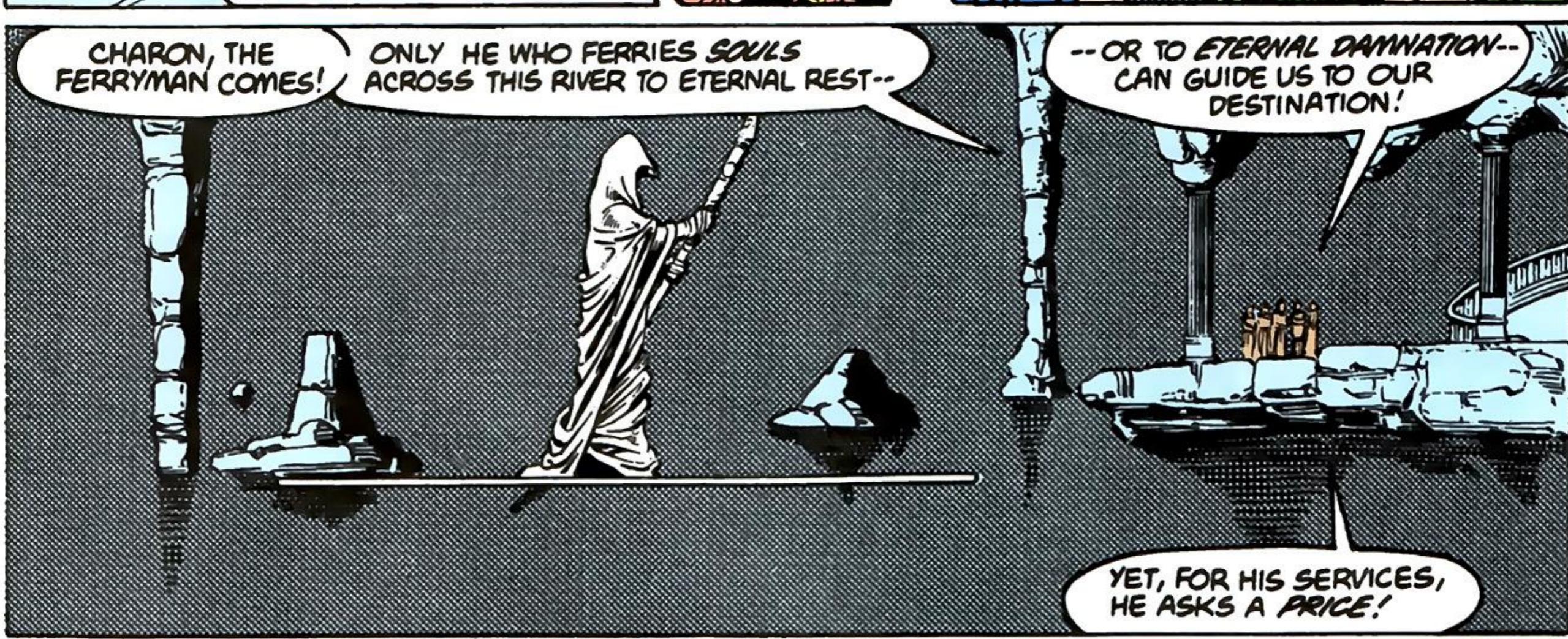
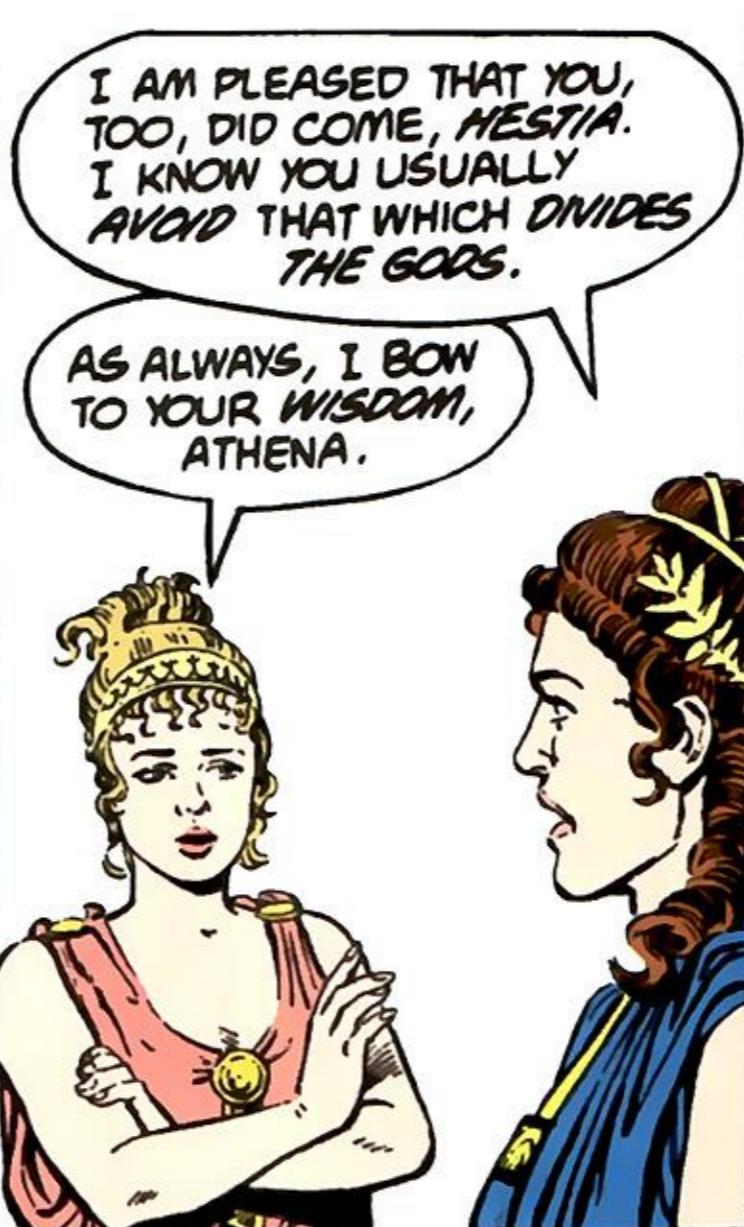
LORD ZEUS, KING
OF GODS! LISTEN NOT
TO THESE BABBLING
FOOLS! IT IS TRUE
THAT MAN MUST NOW
BE DEALT WITH--

GREG POTTER GEORGE PÉREZ, BRUCE PATTERSON, JOHN COSTANZA, TATJANA WOOD, KAREN BERGER
script - co-plotters - pencils inks letters colors editor
3





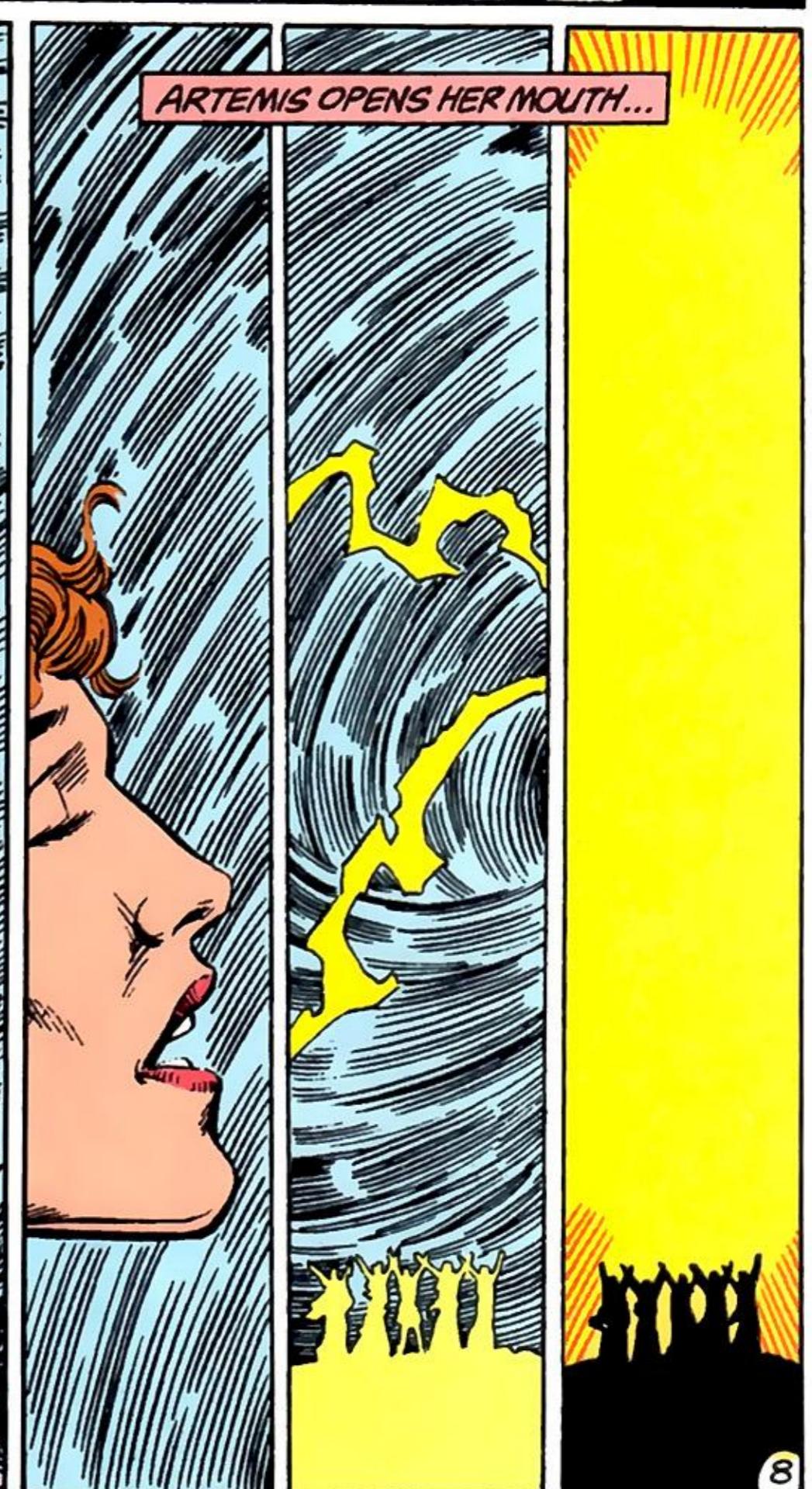


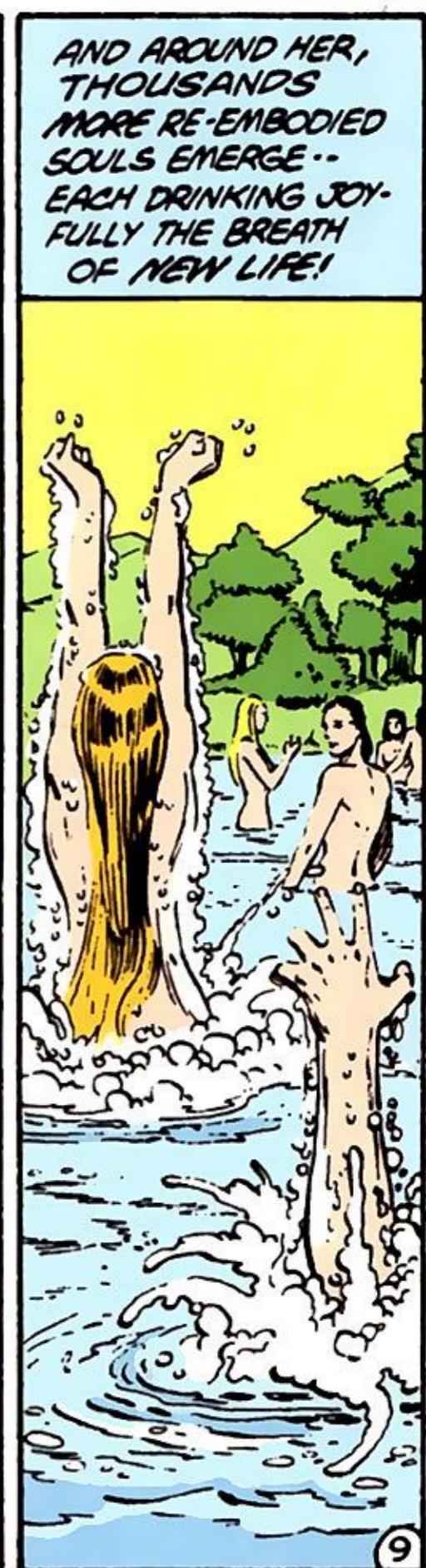
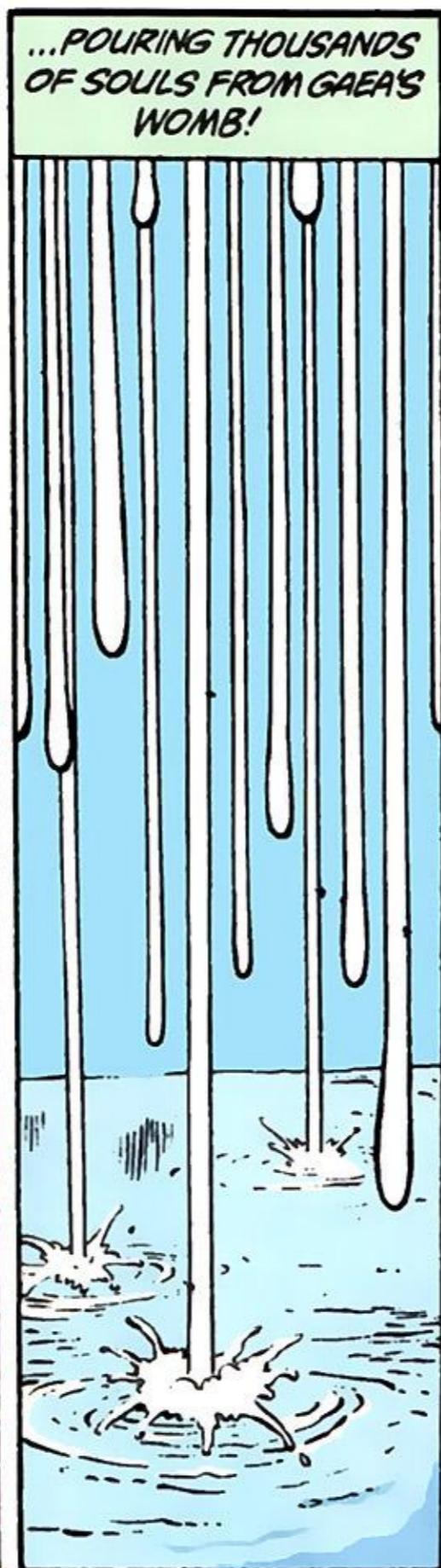




THOSE LIGHTS
ARE SOULS OF
WOMEN--

--THEIR LIVES CUT SHORT
BY MAN'S FEAR AND
IGNORANCE.



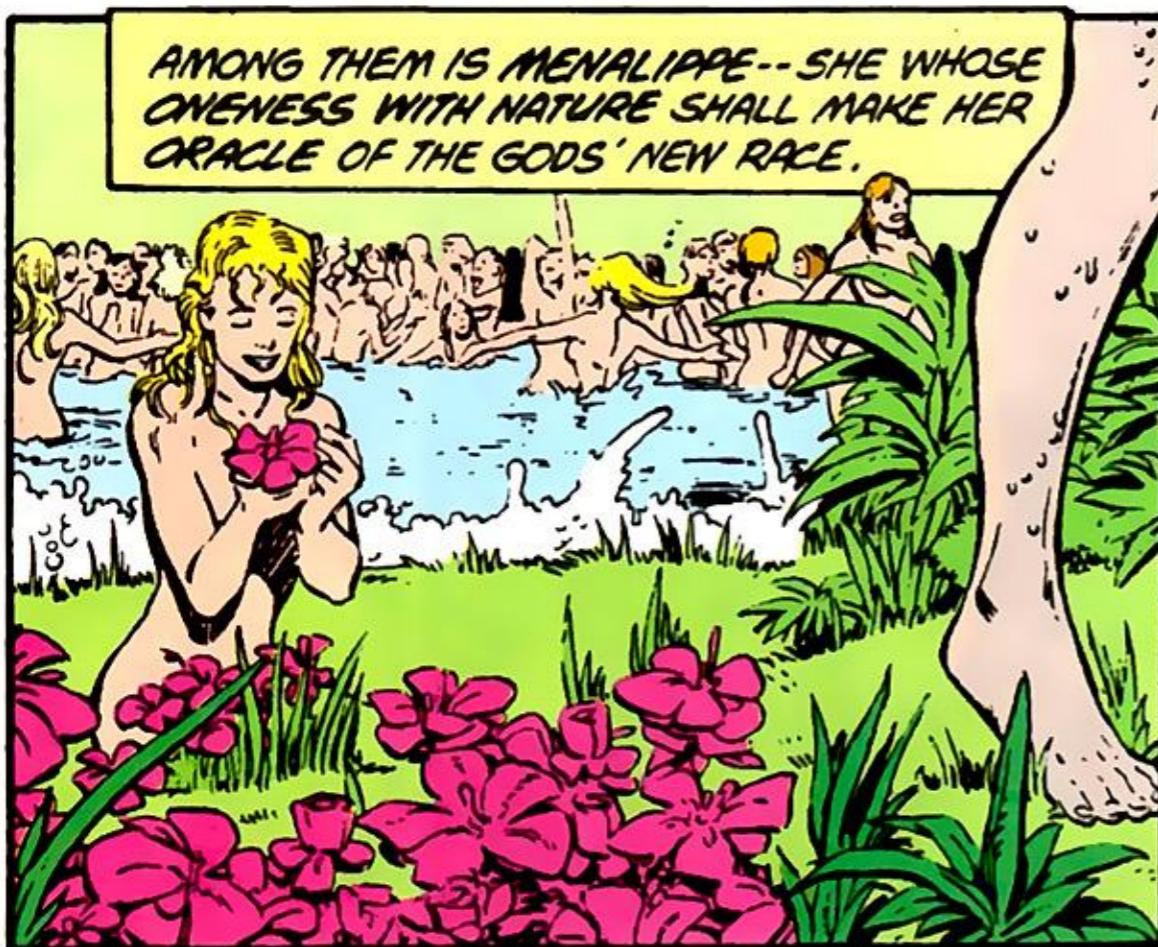


THE WATERS CHURN ANEW-- AND STILL MORE CHILDREN OF THE MIDWIVES ARE REBORN!

AND AELLA-- WHOSE COURAGE SHALL BE AS THE HAWK'S--

BUT THEN, AS THE BLESSED LAKE'S WATERS GROW STILL--

AMONG THEM IS MENALIPE-- SHE WHOSE ONENESS WITH NATURE SHALL MAKE HER ORACLE OF THE GODS' NEW RACE.



-- A VISION... AND THE NEW-BORN ARE SUDDENLY HUSHED.

YOU ARE A CHOSEN RACE-- BORN TO LEAD HUMANITY IN THE WAYS OF VIRTUE-- THE WAY OF GAEA! THROUGH YOU, ALL MEN SHALL KNOW US BETTER-- AND WORSHIP US ALWAYS!



THEREFORE DOES ATHENA GRANT YOU WISDOM, THAT YOU MAY BE GUIDED BY THE LIGHT OF TRUTH AND JUSTICE!

I, ARTEMIS, GRANT YOU SKILL IN THE HUNT! DEMETER SHALL MAKE YOUR FIELDS FRUITFUL!



HESTIA SHALL BUILD YOU A CITY AND WARM YOUR HEARths AND IT IS FAIR APHRODITE WHO GRANTS YOU THE GREAT GIFT OF LOVE!

FOREVERMORE, YOU SHALL FIND STRENGTH IN THESE GIFTS. THEY ARE YOUR MOST SACRED BIRTHRIGHT-- THEY ARE YOUR POWER!

"YOU, HIPPOLYTE, SHALL BE QUEEN OVER ALL MY DAUGHTERS!"

"ANTIOPE, YOU SHALL RULE BY YOUR SISTER'S SIDE!"

"SEE TO IT THAT THESE GIFTS WE GIVE ARE NEVER ABUSED!"

"AND WEAR YOU BOTH THESE SYMBOLS OF OUR TRUST-- GAEA'S GIRDLE! NEVER LET IT BE REMOVED!"



"NOW GO, MY DAUGHTERS! HENCEFORTH, YOU SHALL FORM A SACRED SISTERHOOD! HENCEFORTH, YOU SHALL BE AMAZONS!"

"AND NONE MAY RESIST YOUR POWER!"

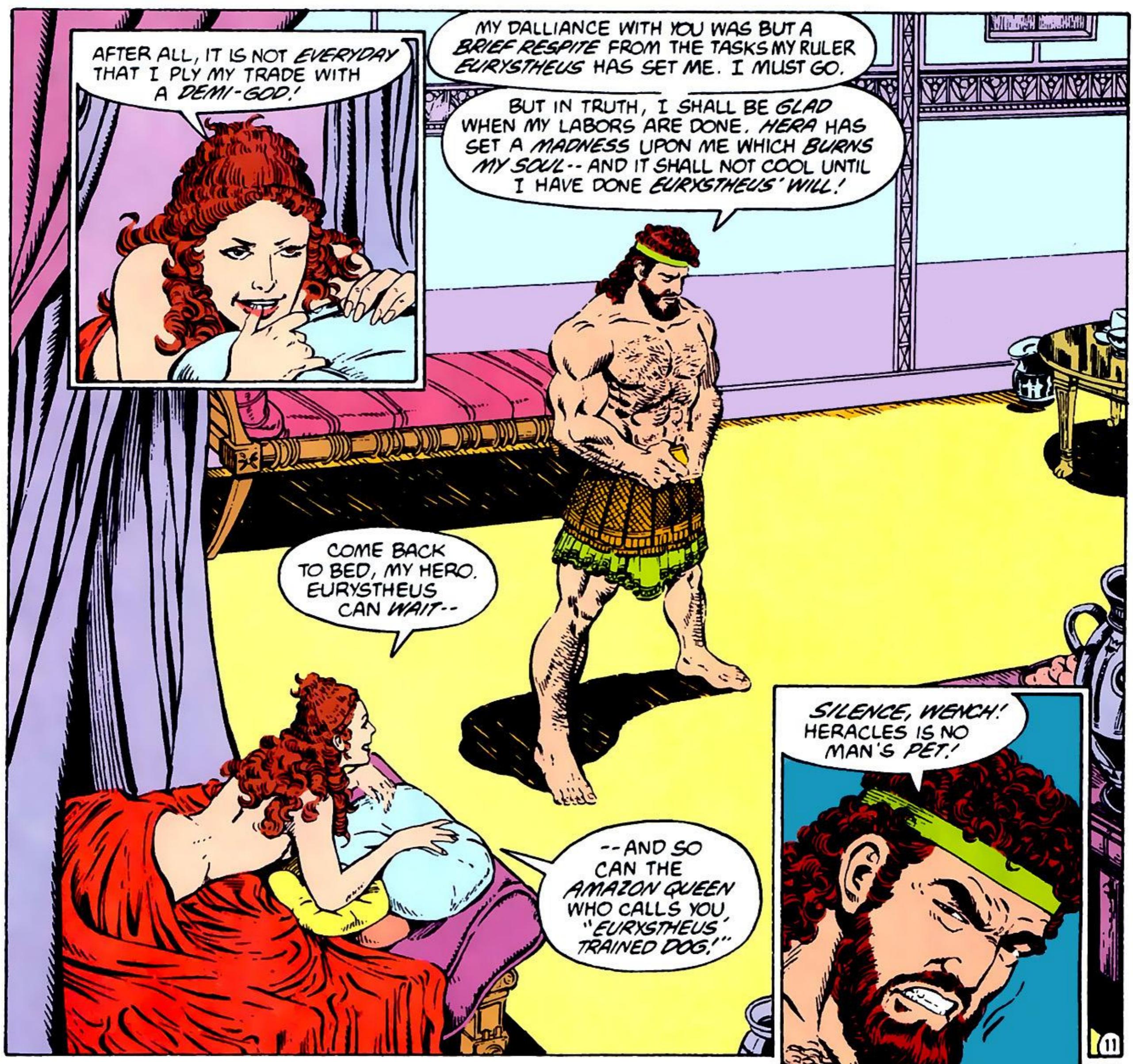
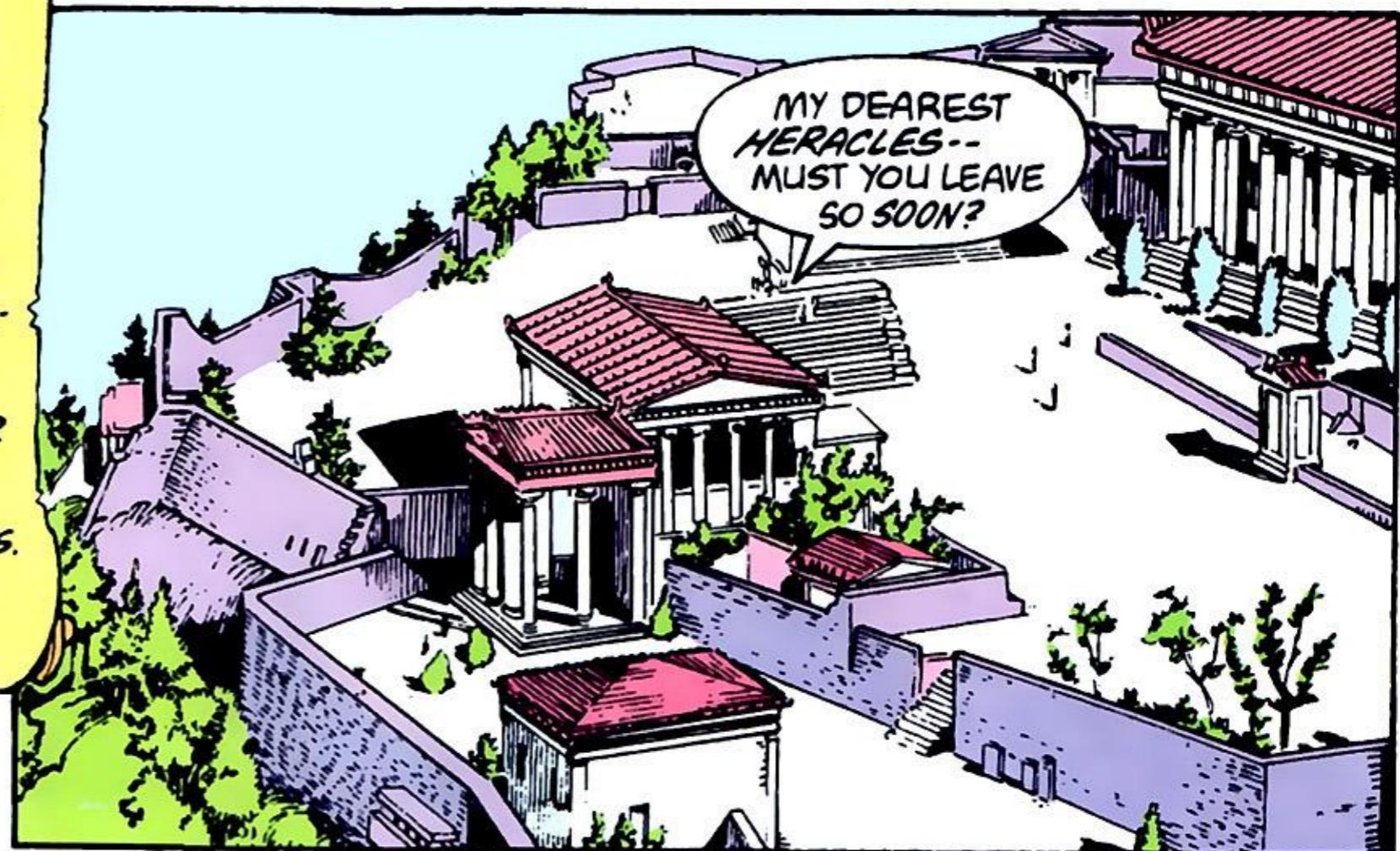


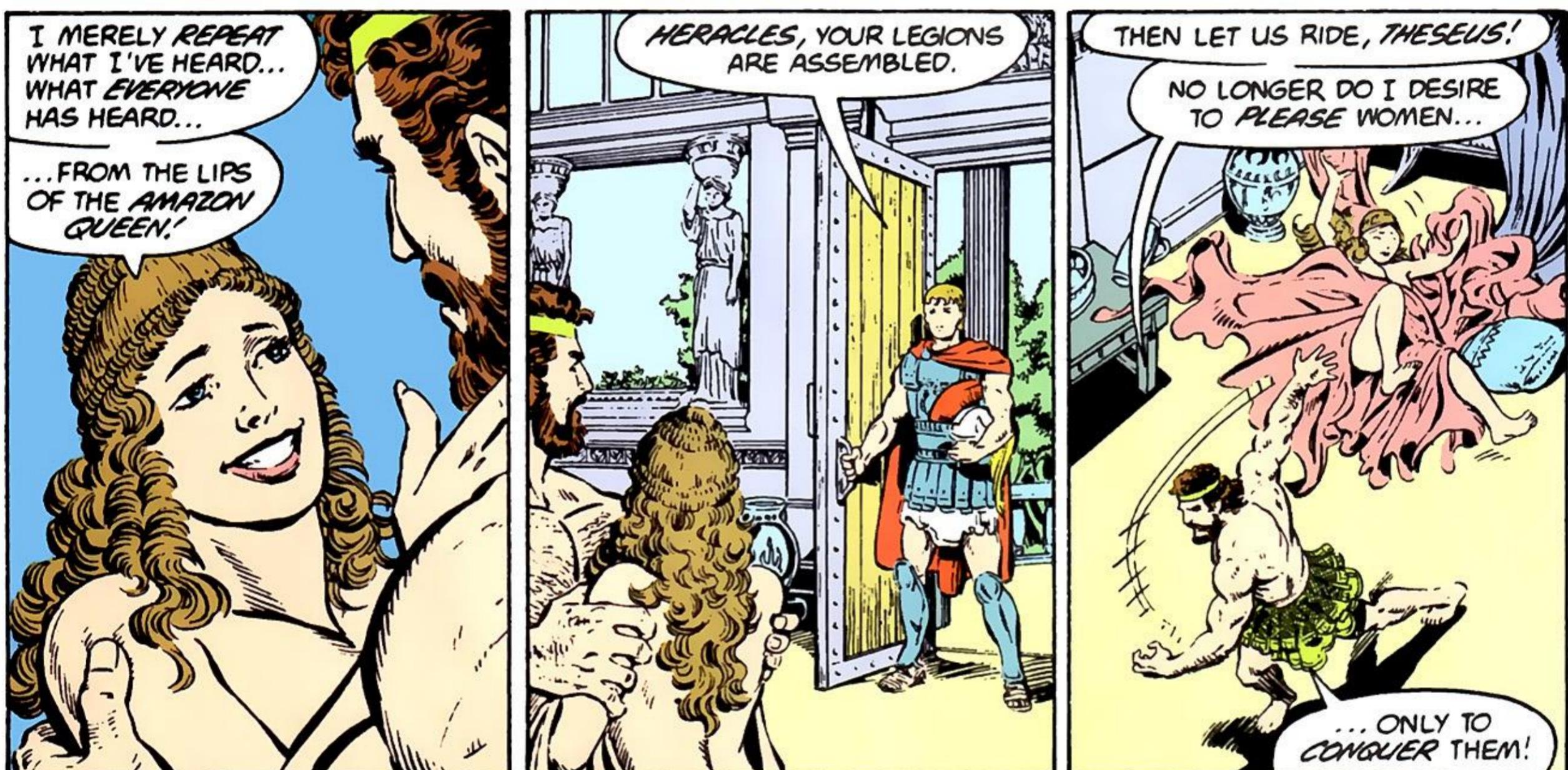
THE ECHOES OF ARTEMIS' WORDS FADE--
AND THE WINDS OF TIME CARRY THE
YEARS AWAY. BUT UPON THE GALE RIDE
THE VOICES OF POETS!

LISTEN! FROM THEIR MOUTHS POUR
WONDROUS TALES--TALES OF A CITY-STATE
GOVERNED SOLELY BY WOMEN--OF A PLACE
WHERE COMPASSION AND JUSTICE REIGN--
A PLACE THE POETS CALL THEMISCIRA! IN
THIS WAY, THE POWER AND THE GLORY OF
THE AMAZONS IS SOON KNOWN THROUGH-
OUT ALL GREECE!

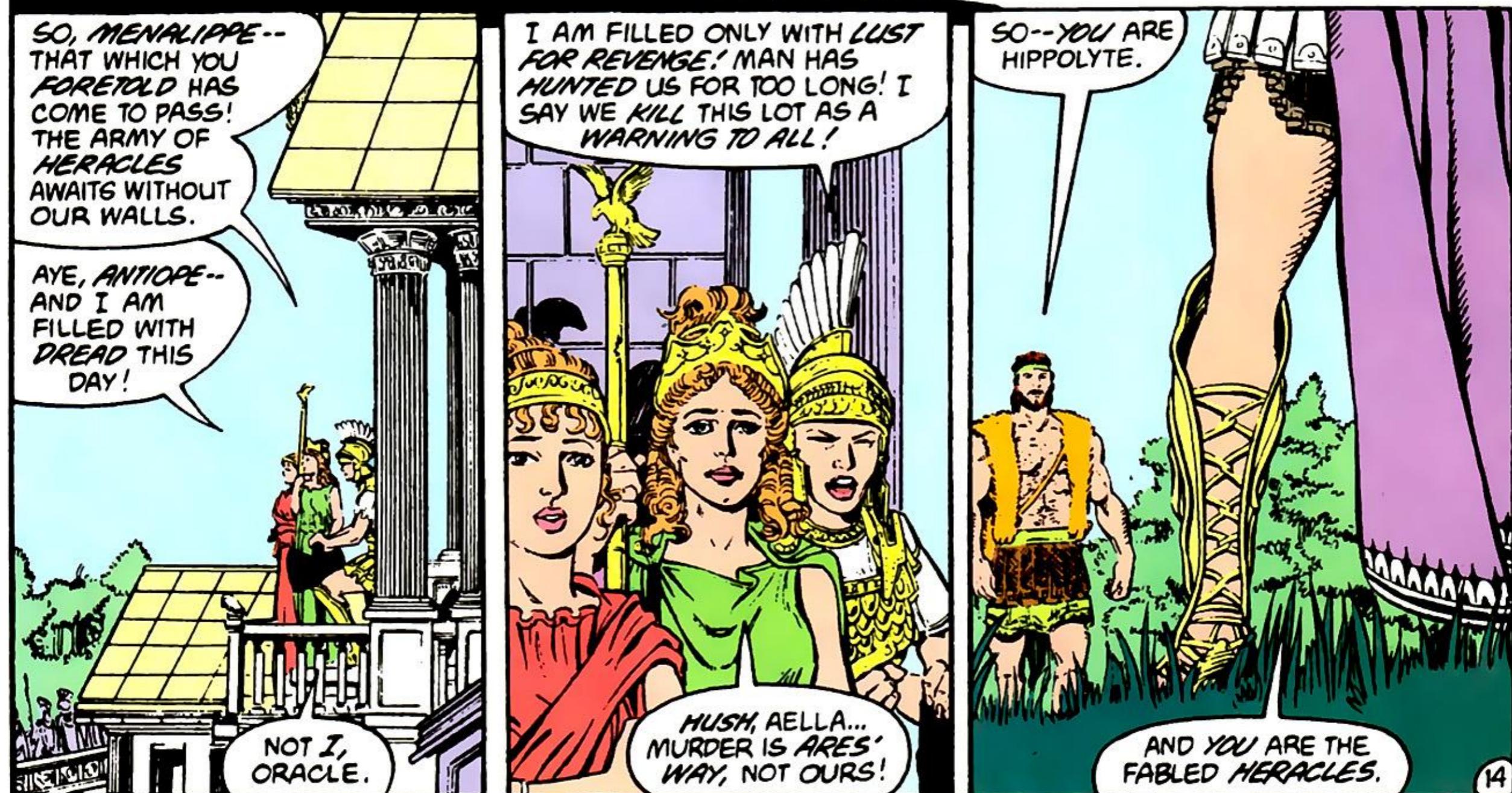
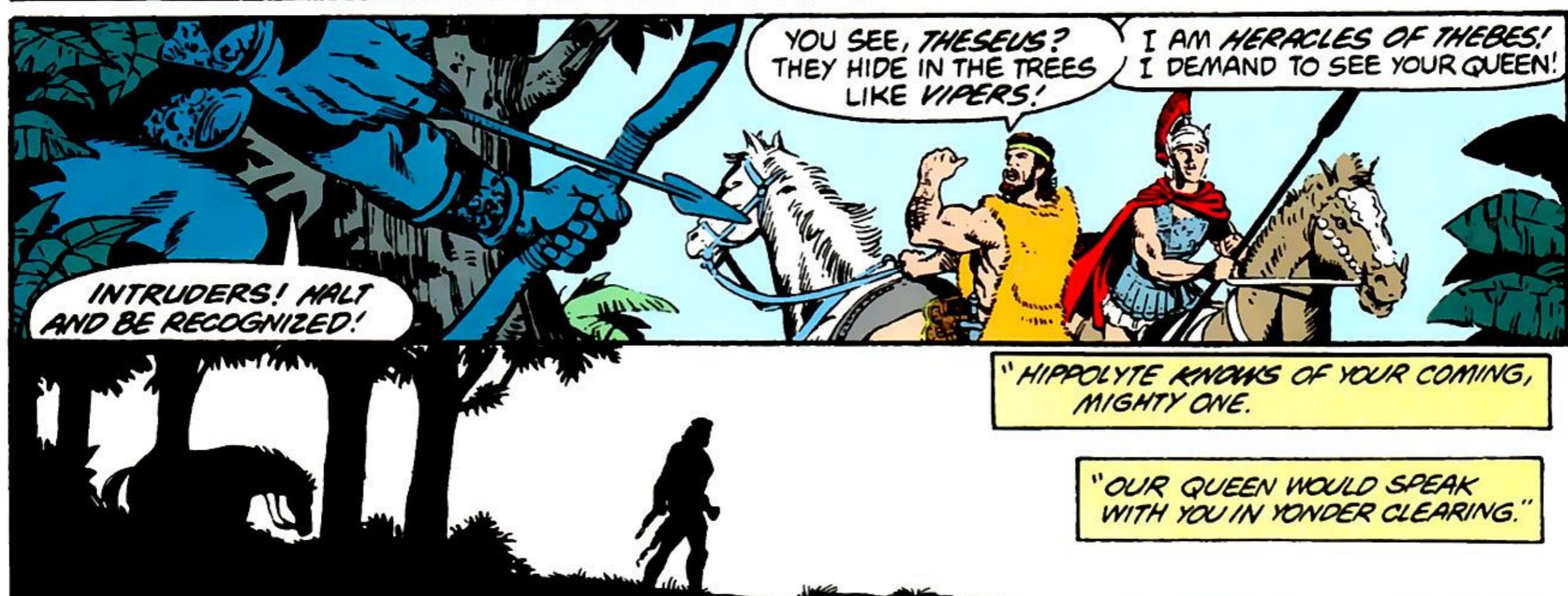
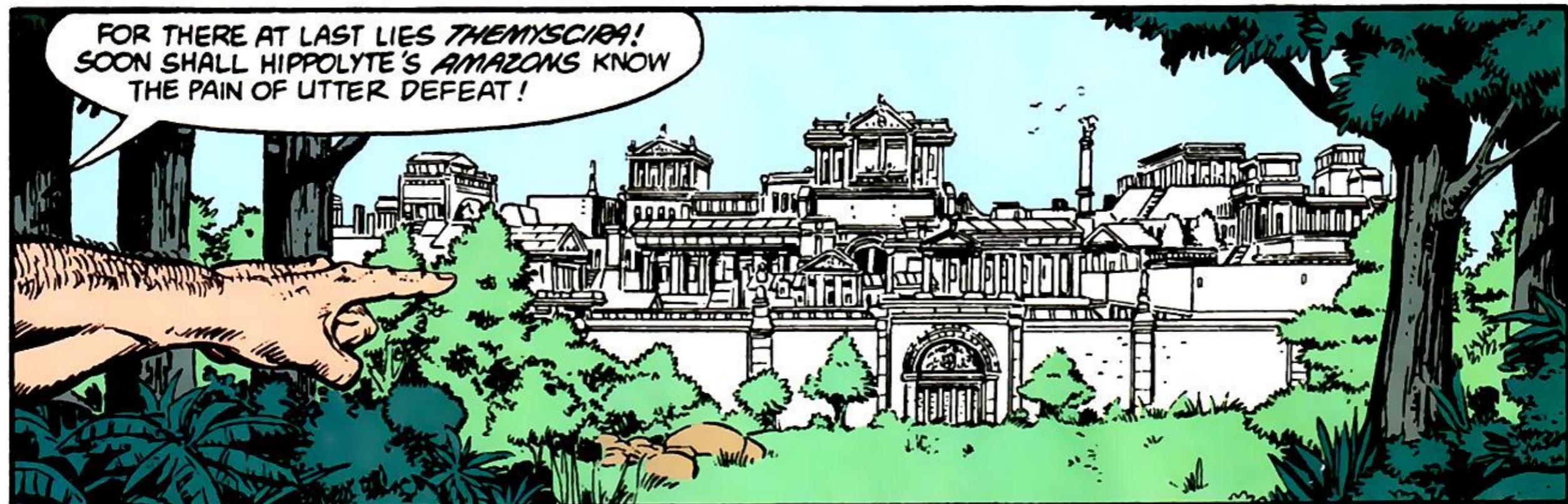
YET, KINGS DO NOT LIKE POPULARITY--NOR
DO THEY LIKE POWER--UNLESS IT IS
THEIR OWN! THUS THE RULERS OF
GREECE GROW JEALOUS OF THE AMAZONS.
AND SO THE POETS ARE SEIZED--AND
BRIBED--AND THREATENED.

NOW ARE TALES TOLD OF AMAZON ATROCITIES--OF MURDERS, WARS AND
THIEVERY! NOW DO THE GODDESSES CRY FROM OLYMPUS' HEIGHTS! FOR THEIR
DAUGHTERS HAVE BECOME OUTCASTS--REGARDED BY ALL MANKIND AS
DIFFERENT...STRANGE...AND EVEN INHUMAN! NOW, MANKIND
UNDERSTANDS THE AMAZONS NOT AT ALL. AND THAT WHICH MAN DOES
NOT UNDERSTAND, HE FEARS!

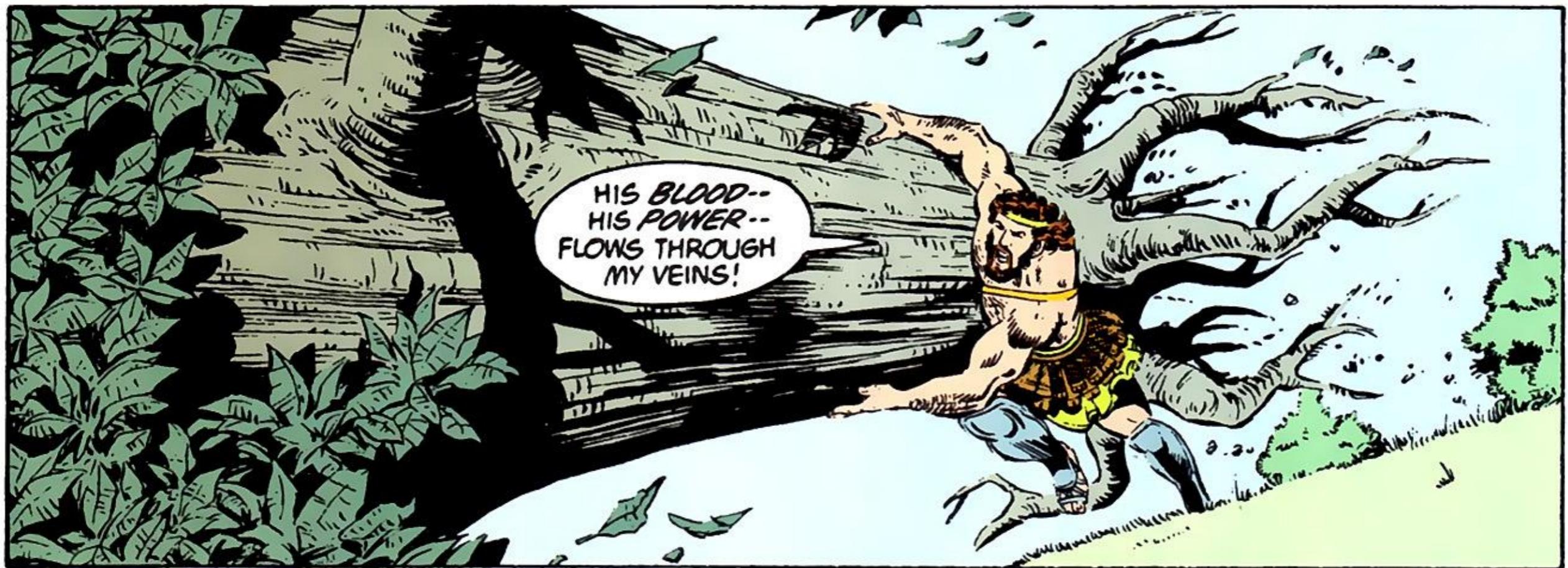












LAUGHTER--THE
UNIVERSAL LANGUAGE.
HEALER OF DISCORD,
MOTHER OF UNITY.

TONIGHT, ITS SONG
DANCES BRIGHTLY
BENEATH A FULL
MOON...

...RISING MERRILY FROM
THE LIPS OF MEN--AND
WOMEN.

THIS GATHERING IS
HERACLES' IDEA--
A GESTURE OF GOOD
WILL TOWARD THE
WOMEN HE NOW
CALLS FRIENDS!

YET, NOT ALL AMAZONS ARE
CONTENT THIS NIGHT.

THESEUS AND ANTIOME
SEEM SO HAPPY!

BUT, I HAVE
READ THE SIGNS.
THEY FORETOLD
DISASTER ON
ON THIS DAY!

"HOW COULD I HAVE
BEEN SO WRONG?"

HERACLES... I
REJOICE UNTO MY
VERY SOUL!

THIS IS HOW MEN AND WOMEN
SHOULD FACE ONE ANOTHER--
NOT WITH SWORDS, BUT WITH
LOVE, LAUGHTER, AND EQUALITY.

I SHOULD NEVER
HAVE LISTENED TO
MENALIPPE!

ORACLES SEE ONLY
WHAT MIGHT BE.
MORTALS CREATE THEIR
OWN DESTINIES.

AND WHEN I GAZE UPON
YOUR BEAUTY, FAIR
HIPPOLYTE...

...I FEEL THAT MY DESTINY
MUST BE EVERMORE AT
YOUR SIDE!

HERACLES,
I--

TO THE
UNITY OF
MAN AND
WOMAN!

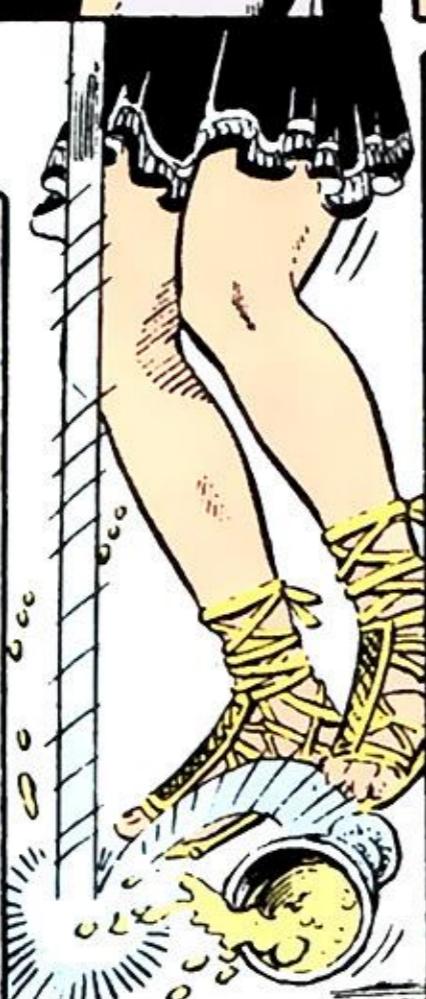
SPEAK
NOT, MY
QUEEN.
DRINK
WITH ME.

DRINK!

WHY... MY INCOMPARABLE
HIPPOLYTE! DOES MY
POTION DISPLEASE YOU?

ALLOW GALLANT
HERACLES TO
RELIEVE YOU...

...OF YOUR
MISERY!



SEMI-CONSCIOUSNESS: IT IS LIKE A SEA OF TAR THROUGH WHICH HIPPOLYTE STRIVES TO SURFACE.

AND FROM SOMEWHERE BEYOND THE INKY BLACKNESS, SHE HEARS THE WOEFUL CRIES OF HER AMAZON SISTERS!

THEY WAIL AS HERACLES' MEN TAKE UP ARMS AGAINST THEM!

WAIL AS THEIR HOMES ARE TORCHED, THEIR BODIES RAVAGED, THEIR PRIDE STRIPPED AWAY!

AND FAINTLY, RISING ABOVE THE CHAOS AND BRUTALITY, IS ANOTHER SOUND...

...THE COLD AND DISTANT ECHO OF ARES' LAUGHTER!

I SEE YOU ARE FINALLY COMING TO YOUR SENSES, MY QUEEN!



HOW STUPID YOU HAVE BEEN! DID YOU TRULY BELIEVE I WOULD BE YOUR ALLY?

NO WOMAN IS HERACLES' EQUAL! AND NO WOMAN WITHHOLDS HERSELF FROM HERACLES' EMBRACE--EVEN IF SHE MUST BE READIED BY DRUG AND CHAIN!



NOW, I HAVE MADE YOU A REAL WOMAN!

THIS GIRDLE I TAKE AS A PRIZE--A SYMBOL OF MY CONQUEST!

HOW DEARLY I WOULD LIKE TO BREAK YOU FURTHER...TO SEE YOU BEG AND PLEAD!



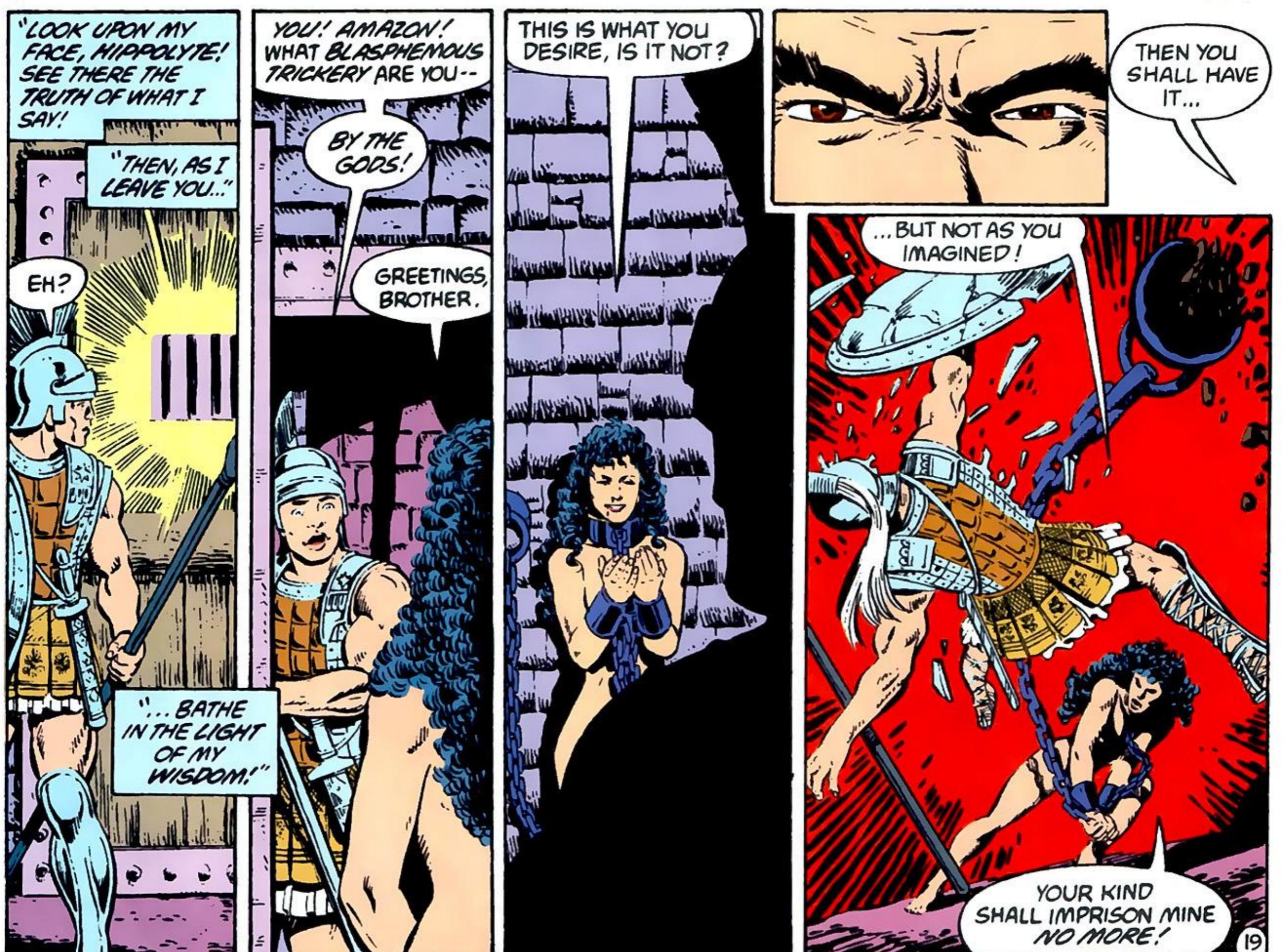
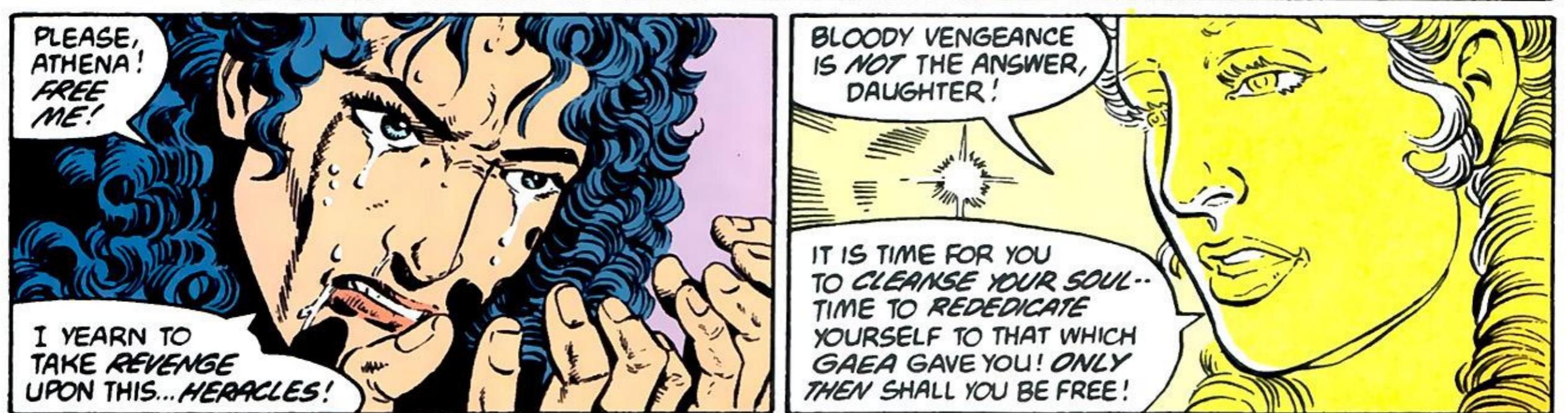
ALAS, EURYSTHEUS' MADNESS LEADS ME ON! I LEAVE FOR TROY TONIGHT.

FAREWELL, AMAZON QUEEN! IT HAS BEEN MOST...AMUSING!



GODDESSES OF OLYMPUS! I BEG YOU--FORGIVE ME! I HAVE FAILED YOU!





NOW, SUDDENLY, HIPPOLYTE IS EVERYWHERE--SURPRISING HER CAPTORS--FREEING HER SISTERS--SOUNDING THE CALL TO ARMS! YET, WITH THAT CALL, SHE WHISPERS A 'CAUTION...'.

"AMAZONS, REMEMBER THE SOURCE OF OUR POWER--REMEMBER GAEA'S WAY!"

BUT THEY HEED THEIR QUEEN NOT!

FOR THEIR SOULS BOIL WITH RAGE--THEIR WEAPONS, LIKE THE FANGS OF MADDENED DOGS, DRINK DEEP OF THEIR ENEMIES--AND THE GROUND AT THEIR FEET IS SOON COVERED WITH CRIMSON!

AND LIKE SOME CRAZED, BLOODTHIRSTY BEAST, THE BATTLE GROWS OUT OF CONTROL!



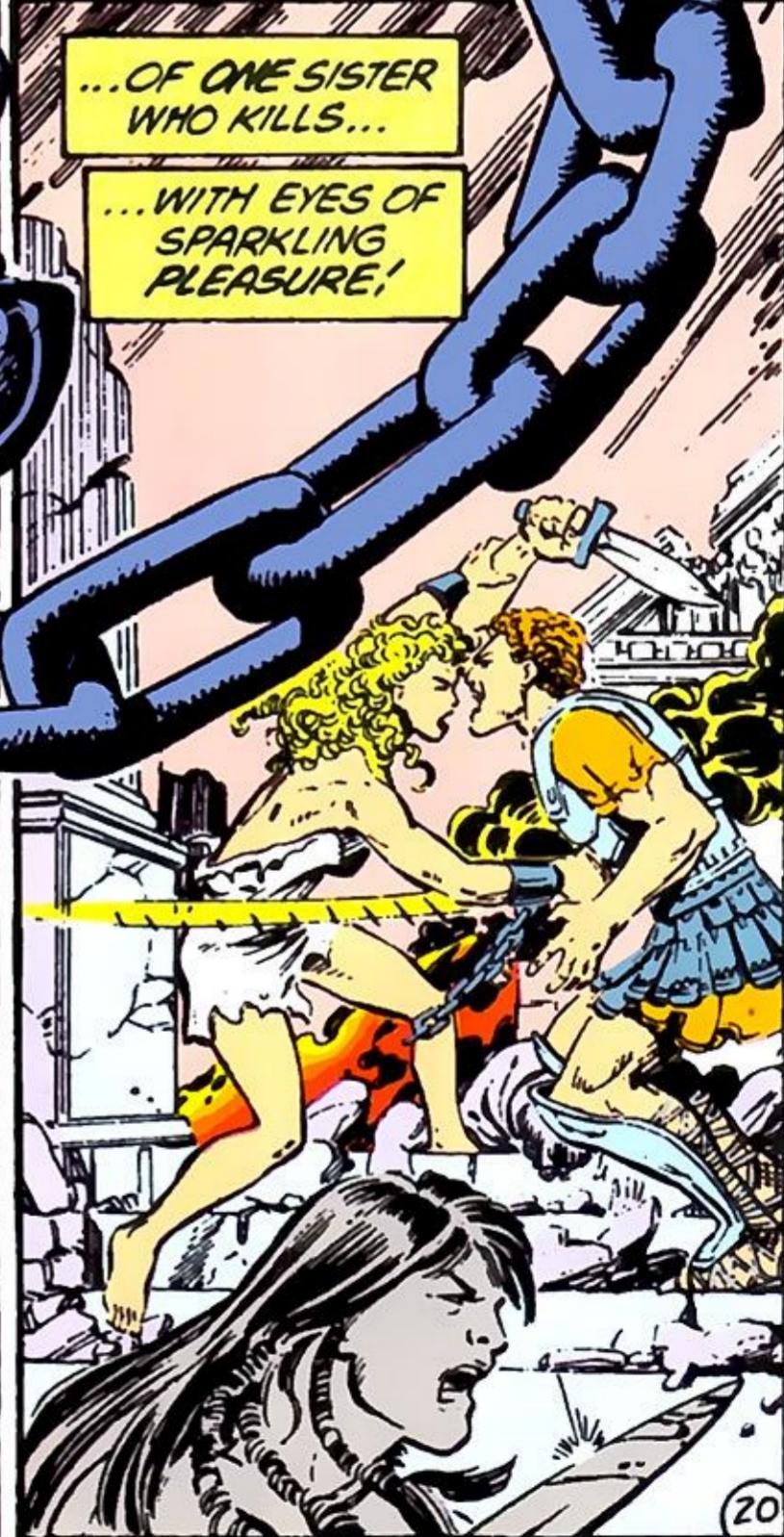
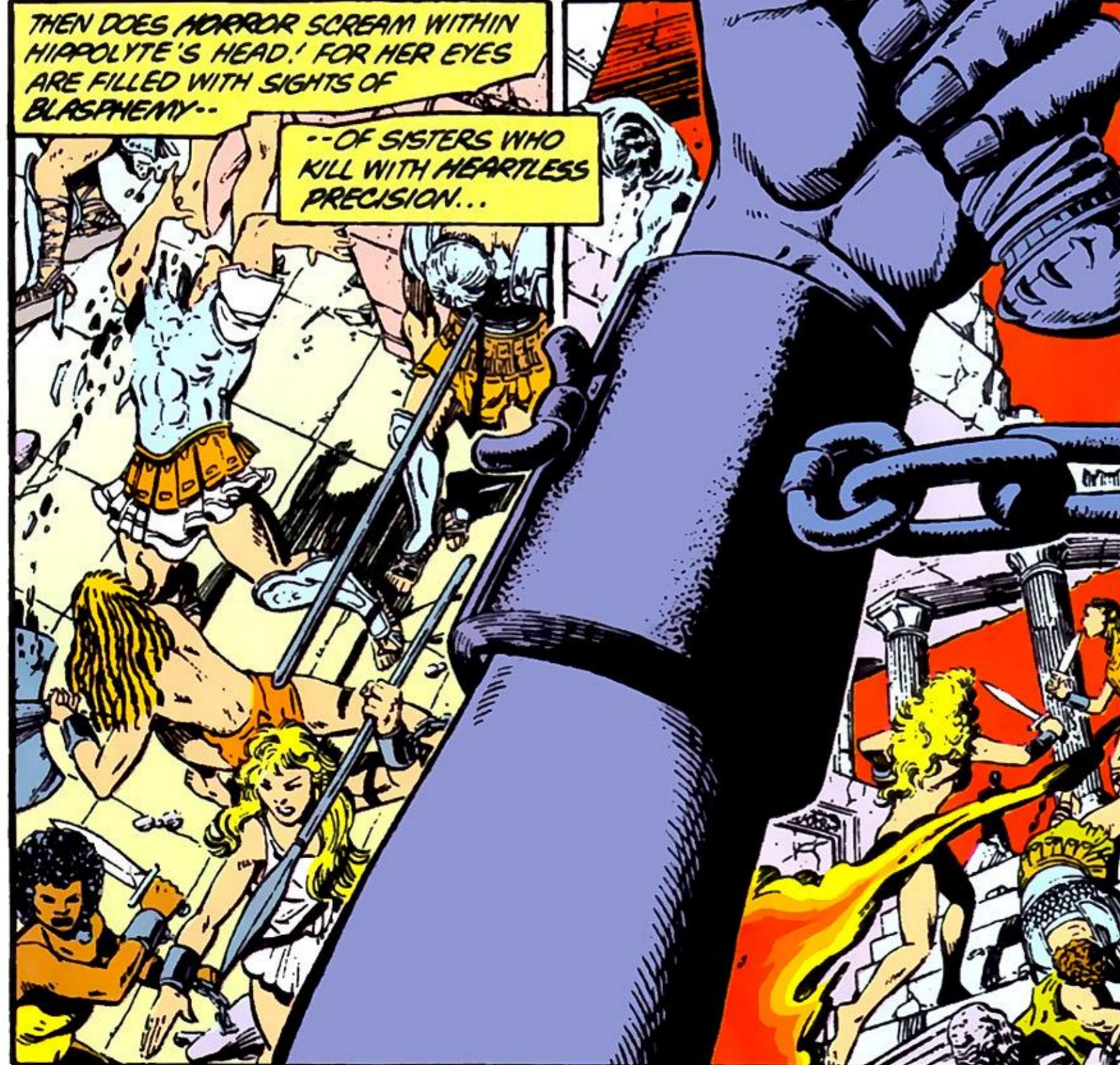
THEN DOES HORROR SCREAM WITHIN HIPPOLYTE'S HEAD! FOR HER EYES ARE FILLED WITH SIGHTS OF BLASPHEMY--

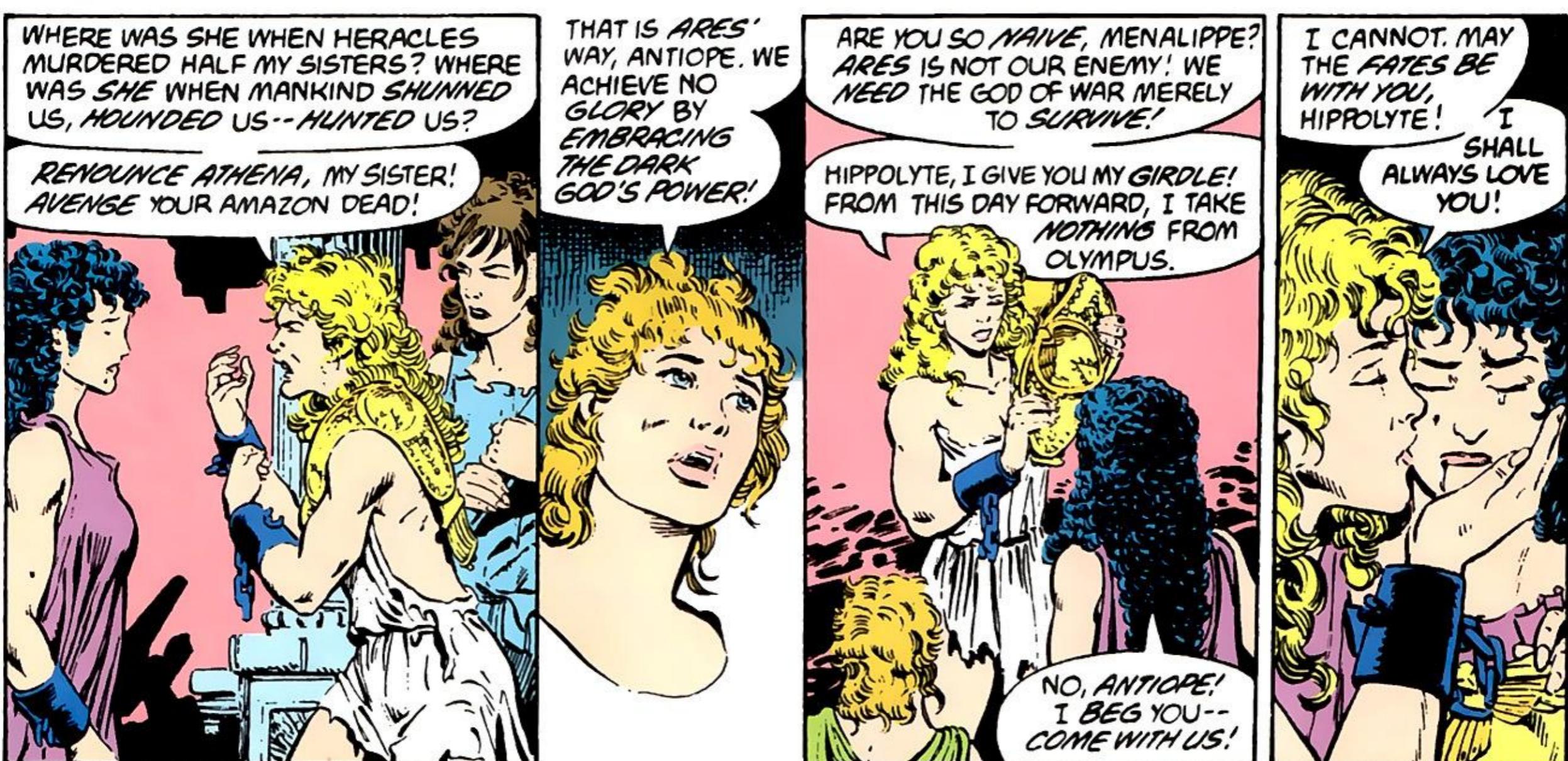
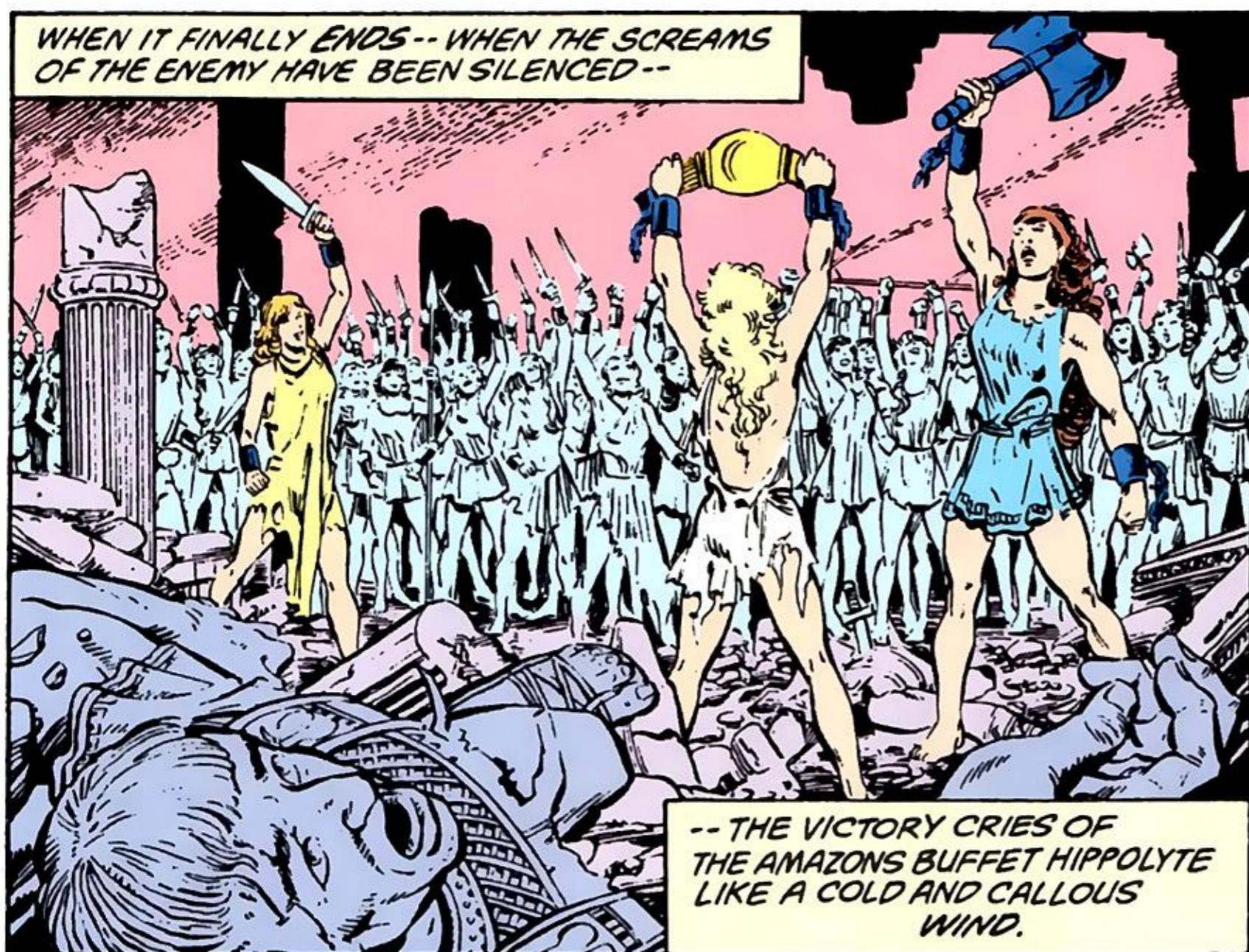
--OF SISTERS WHO KILL WITH HEARTLESS PRECISION...



...OF ONE SISTER WHO KILLS...

...WITH EYES OF SPARKLING PLEASURE!





... AND THEN, THE LONG WALK TO THE
AEGEAN.

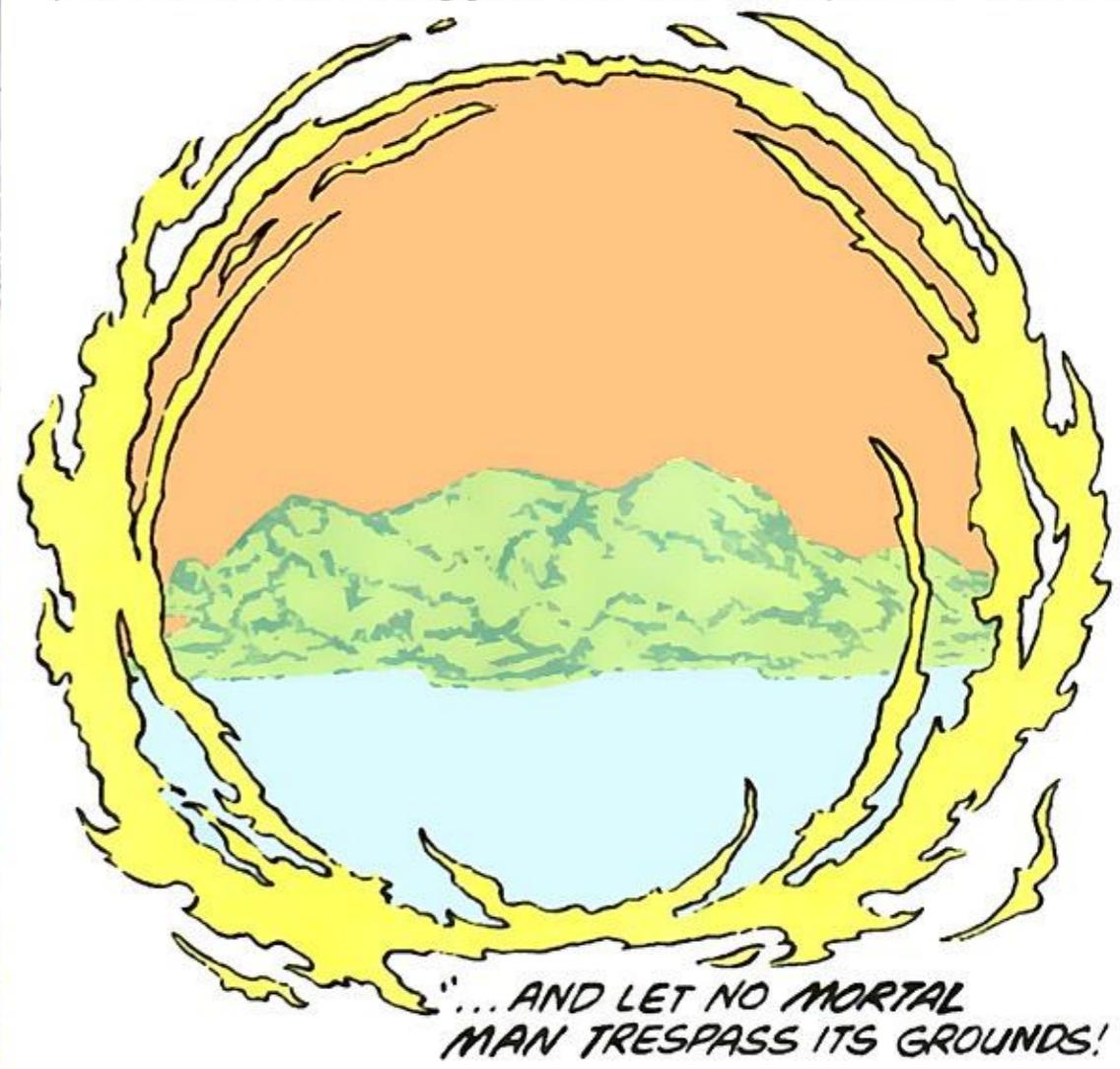
MY DAUGHTERS -- YOU
HAVE FAILED US! YOU HAVE
FORGOTTEN THE SOURCE OF
YOUR POWER -- FORGOTTEN
THE TRUST PLACED IN YOU!

FOR THESE FAILURES, YOU
MUST DO A PENANCE! ONE
IN WHICH THERE IS NEW
HONOR -- NEW RESPONSIBILITY!
WE SHALL SEND YOU TO AN
ISLAND -- BENEATH WHICH
LIES AN UNSPEAKABLE
EVIL!

"YET, YOU MUST
EVERMORE WEAR
THE SYMBOLS OF
YOUR FORMER
BONDAGE -- AS A
REMINDER NEVER
TO ERR AGAIN!"

GODDESS --
WHERE IS THIS
ISLAND?

"WHERE MAN MAY NOT EASILY DISCOVER IT. IT
APPEARS A PARADISE! AND SO IT SHALL BE --
AS LONG AS YOU GUARD ITS VILE SECRET WELL..."



YOU SHALL BE THE
JAILERS OF THAT EVIL
FOR ALL ETERNITY!

AS LONG AS YOU
REMAIN THERE AND
SHIRK NOT YOUR NEW
CHARGE -- YOU SHALL LIVE
AS IMMORTALS AND
YOUR SOULS SHALL AGAIN
BECOME PURE.

FOR THIS AID, WE
THANK YOU, GOD
OF THE SEAS!

ARES DID
MURDER
MY OWN SON,
DEMETER.

I AM GLAD
TO HELP!

"BESIDES, THE ORACLES
TELL ME THAT YOUR
AMAZONS ARE MORE
THAN THEY SEEM -- THAT
UPON ONE OF THEIR KIND
RESTS NOT ONLY THE
FUTURE OF THE GODS...

"... BUT OF ALL
MANKIND!"

THE DAYS BRING FATIGUE, THE NIGHTS ARE BITTER COLD-- AND AT EVERY TURN, THE FOLLOWERS OF HIPPOLYTE FEAR THAT POSEIDON'S TUNNEL WILL SUDDENLY FALTER-- AND COME THUNDERING DOWN AROUND THEM! YET, THROUGHOUT THEIR THREE MONTHS' JOURNEY, THE WATERY PATHWAY HOLDS. AND AS THEIR FEET TOUCH THE SOIL OF PARADISE ISLAND, EACH AMAZON KNOWS THE GIFT OF IMMORTALITY! THEREBY ARE THEY REJUVENATED-- AND SET THEMSELVES, HEART AND SOUL, TO WORK...

...BUILDING...



...CLEARING...



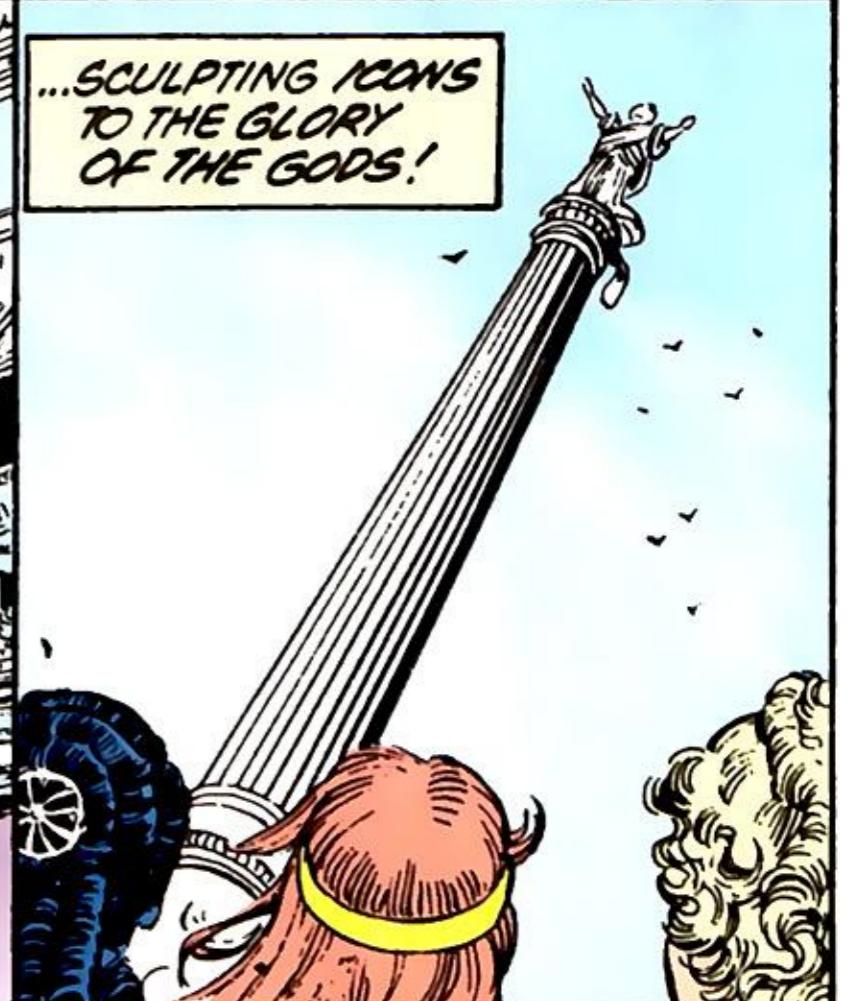
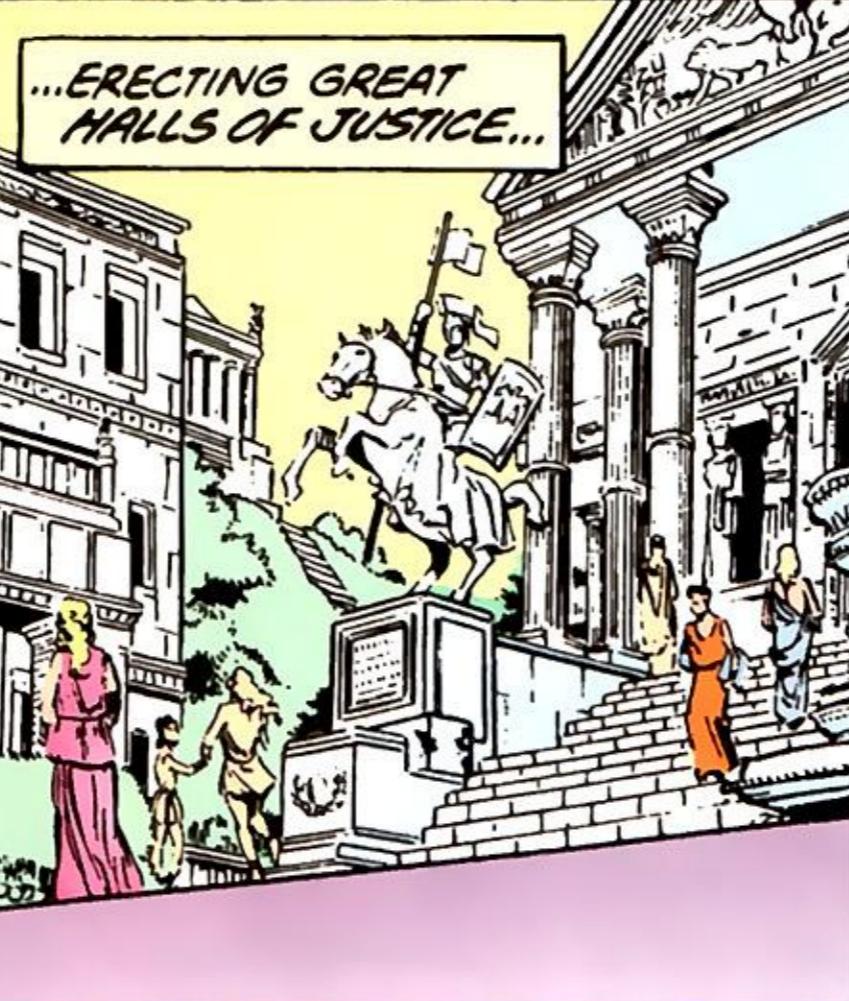
...PLANNING...



...KEEPING THEIR ARTS
AND HISTORY ALIVE...

...ERECTING GREAT
HALLS OF JUSTICE...

...SCULPTING ICONS
TO THE GLORY
OF THE GODS!



THUS DO THE CENTURIES PASS AND UPON
THE GROUNDS OF PARADISE, THE AMAZON
NATION RENEWS ITS SENSE OF PURPOSE
AND DISCIPLINE.

... STILL THERE ARE THOSE WHO
FALL IN BATTLE! FOR THE EVIL
SECRET WITHIN THE ISLAND IS
NOT EASY TO CONTAIN!

FOR THOUGH THE AMAZONS
KNOW IMMORTALITY--
THOUGH THEY NEVER AGE
OR HUNGER...

AND THE BURDEN
OF THE AMAZONS'
RESPONSIBILITY
IS HEAVY INDEED!

OUTSIDE, BEYOND THE SEAS, THE WORLD OF MAN CHANGES. GREAT CIVILIZATIONS RISE AND FALL.

BUT THE AMAZONS KNOW NOTHING OF THIS. THEY HEAR ONLY THE VOICES OF THE OLD GODS GROW MORE DISTANT -- AS IF OLYMPUS ITSELF WERE BEING SWALLOWED IN THE CLOUDS!

UNTIL FINALLY, OF ALL WHO DID ONCE COMMUNE WITH THE GODS, ONLY MENALIPPE REMAINS ABLE.

THUS IT IS THAT ON THIS FATEFUL NIGHT, DURING THE 30TH CENTENNIAL OF PARADISE ISLAND, THE ORACLE OF THE AMAZONS DOES WHAT HER QUEEN REQUESTS...

TELL ME -- DO THE SIGNS SAY ANYTHING ABOUT THIS FEELING WITHIN ME?

WHAT IS THIS STRANGE YEARNING WHICH HOLDS ME SO? -- THAT HAS HAD ME IN ITS GRIP LO THESE MANY MONTHS!

BE AT PEACE, HIPPOLYTE! YOU FEEL THE CALL OF A GREAT DESTINY!

KNOW THAT YOU -- AND ALL ORIGINAL AMAZONS -- ARE REINCARNATIONS! ALL OF US KNEW LIFE BEFORE THE MIDWIVES PLUCKED US FROM GAEA'S WOMB.

BUT ONLY YOU, MY QUEEN, WERE PREGNANT AT THE TIME OF YOUR DEATH! NOW, YOU HEAR THE CALL OF YOUR UNBORN DAUGHTER!

THIS YEARNING, THEN -- IT IS A YEARNING -- FOR MY CHILD!!?

MENALIPPE!

"AYE! AND IF YOU WOULD SATISFY IT, FOLLOW ARTEMIS' BIDDING!"

"GO AT SUNRISE TO THE SHORE -- AND KNEEL THERE!"

"THEN, FROM THE CLAY OF PARADISE, FORM YOU AN IMAGE!"

"YOUR HEART SHALL RACE WITH ANTICIPATION -- BUT STEADY YOURSELF..."

"THEN OPEN YOURSELF TO FAIR ARTEMIS -- THAT THE MID-WIFE OF ALL OLYMPUS MAY ENTER YOU!"

"... AND SHAPE THE IMAGE WITH CARE!"

"AND WITH HER GUIDANCE, LET YOUR SPIRIT CRY OUT..."

"...UNTO THE WOMB OF GAEA!"

GODS OF OLYMPUS!
IT IS TIME! NOW DOES
THE LAST SOUL
DEPART!

I, DEMETER,
GRANT HER
POWER AND
STRENGTH--
LIKE THAT OF
THE EARTH IT-
SELF!"

I, APHRODITE,
GIVE HER GREAT
BEAUTY, AND A
LOVING HEART!"

I, ATHENA,
GRANT HER
WISDOM!"

I, ARTEMIS,
SHALL GIVE HER
THE EYE OF THE
HUNTER AND
UNITY WITH THE
BEASTS!"

I, HESTIA, GRANT
HER SISTERHOOD
WITH FIRE--THAT
IT MAY OPEN MENS
HEARTS TO HER!"

I, HERMES,
GIVE HER
SPEED AND
THE POWER OF
FLIGHT!"

"ALL THIS WILL BE MERS
AS SHE GROWS TO
WOMANHOOD!"

"AND BLESSED, TOO,
SHALL SHE BE WITH
GREAT GAEA'S GIFT..."

"LIFE!"

"THEN SHALL HIPPOLYTE
HONOR HER WITH THE NAME
OF A GREAT AND HOLY
WARRIOR!"

"SHE SHALL BE..."

"... DIANA!"

DIANA! THE WORD SINGS FROM THE LIPS OF ALL AMAZONS. SHE IS THE ONLY CHILD THEY HAVE TOUCHED IN OVER 30 CENTURIES. AND HER INNOCENCE STIRS THE LOVE OF APHRODITE WITHIN THEM!

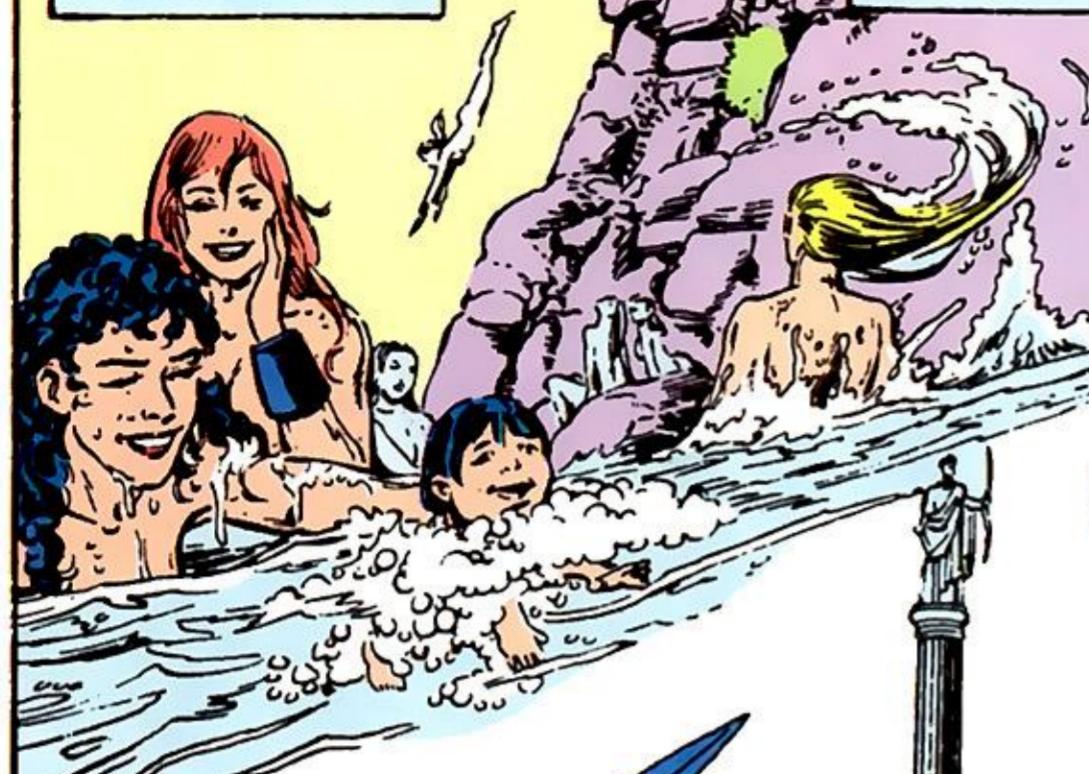
SO IT IS THAT THE INFANT PRINCESS KNOWS THE CARE OF A THOUSAND MOTHERS...

...AND THE TEACHINGS OF THE QUEEN'S MOST LEARNED SCHOLARS!

THEY READ HER THEIR HISTORY-- THAT SHE MIGHT BE ONE WITH THEM, HEART AND SOUL!

AND THE MORE SHE MATURES...

...THE MORE SHE EXCELS!



BUT EVEN INTO PARADISE THERE CAN ONE DAY COME A SERPENT!

BY THE GODS, PHILIPPUS! THAT SCREAM!

AS FOR HIPPOLYTE, HER HEART GLOWS AS DIANA GROWS MORE BEAUTIFUL DAILY. AND SHE GIVES THANKS IN HER PRAYERS FOR THIS MOST PRECIOUS OF ALL GIFTS: THIS CHILD-- THIS WOMAN--

THIS PRINCESS OF PARADISE!



...CALL THE QUEEN!

FOOTFALLS ECHO THROUGH THE PALACE. THEN, MENALIPPE TELLS HER TALE -- OF THE GODS CRYING OUT IN TERROR -- OF ARES GONE INSANE -- HIS MIGHT MULTIPLIED A THOUSAND-FOLD -- HIS BEING DRAWN MAGNET-LIKE TO SOME TERRIBLE POWER WITHIN MAN'S WORLD!

THIS "POWER", MENALIPPE -- WHAT IS ITS NATURE?

I KNOW NOT, MY QUEEN!

BUT WITH IT, ARES MAY CONSUME THE VERY EARTH ITSELF -- AND EVEN PARADISE SHALL NOT BE SPARED!

AND WHAT OF THE GODS?

NO, I -- I KNOW NOT WHY. BUT WE ARE COMMANDED TO CHOOSE A CHAMPION -- THE VERY BEST AMONG US! SHE SHALL PROVE HERSELF THROUGH TOURNAMENT AND THE TRIAL OF FLASHING THUNDER!

SHE ALONE CAN SAVE US AND SHE ALONE SHALL FACE ARES IN THE WORLD OF MAN!

CAN THEY NOT STOP MAD ARES?

IF THE GODS WILL IT, IT SHALL BE DONE! PROCLAIM IT THROUGHOUT PARADISE! THERE SHALL BE A TOURNAMENT ON THE 'MORROW!

AND THERE --

-- SHALL A CHAMPION BE BORN!

AYE. A CHAMPION. YET HOW CAN EVEN THE BEST OF US SUCCEED...

MOTHER, I -- FORGIVE ME. I OVERHEARD YOU BY YOUR LEAVE, I WISH TO BE INCLUDED IN THIS TOURNAMENT.

NO, DIANA! YOU ARE BUT A CHILD!

...WHERE THE GODS DARE NOT GO?

I AM AN AMAZON, MOTHER! I WEAR THE MARK, LIKE ALL MY SISTERS!

I HAVE NO INTENTION OF LOSING YOU, DAUGHTER -- EVER! THE ANSWER IS NO!

SILENCE! I AM YOUR QUEEN AS WELL AS YOUR MOTHER! AND I HAVE SPOKEN!

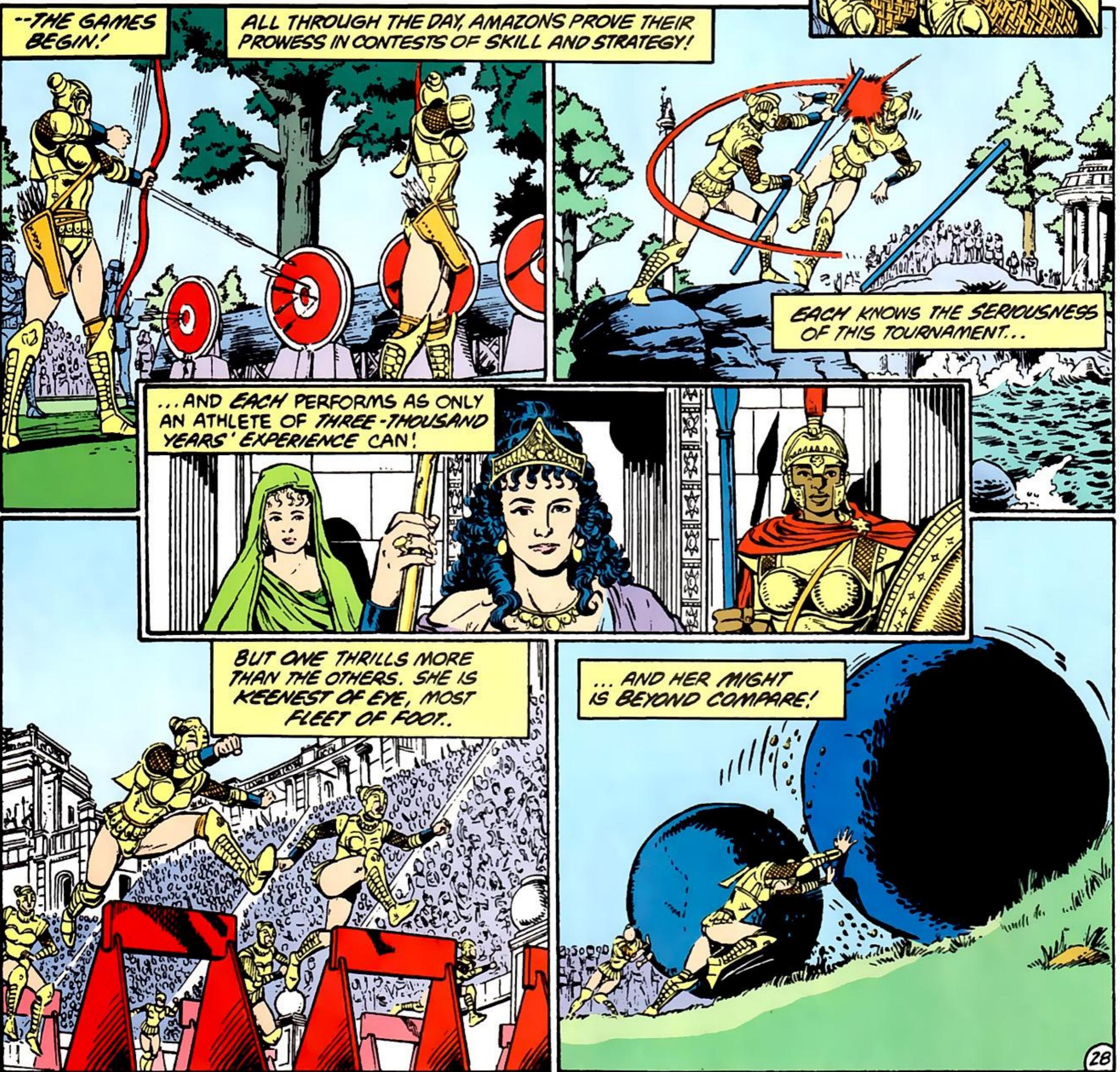
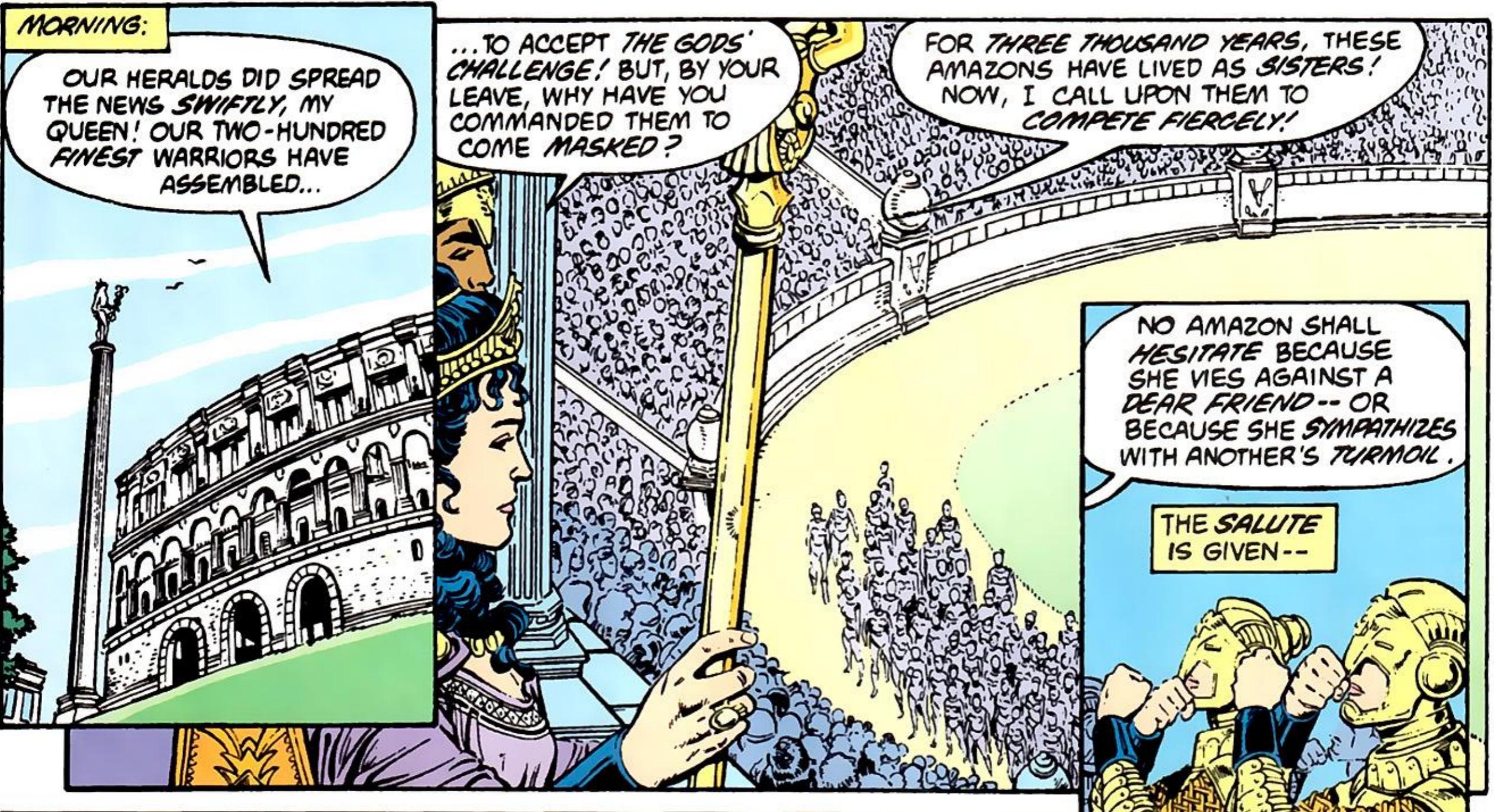
IT IS SO... UNFAIR! WAS I BORN ONLY TO BE CODDLED LIKE SOME ETERNAL INFANT?

AM I NOT AN AMAZON? AM I NOT A WOMAN?

OH, GODS OF OLYMPUS! THOUGH I LOVE PARADISE, I YEARN FOR MORE FROM MY LIFE...

AYE, DIANA! AND PURPOSE YOU SHALL HAVE! THE TIME HAS COME!

...I YEARN FOR PURPOSE!



ON THE FINAL DAY THIS AMAZON HAS INDEED BESTED ALL-- AND HER SISTERS ROAR THEIR APPROVAL!

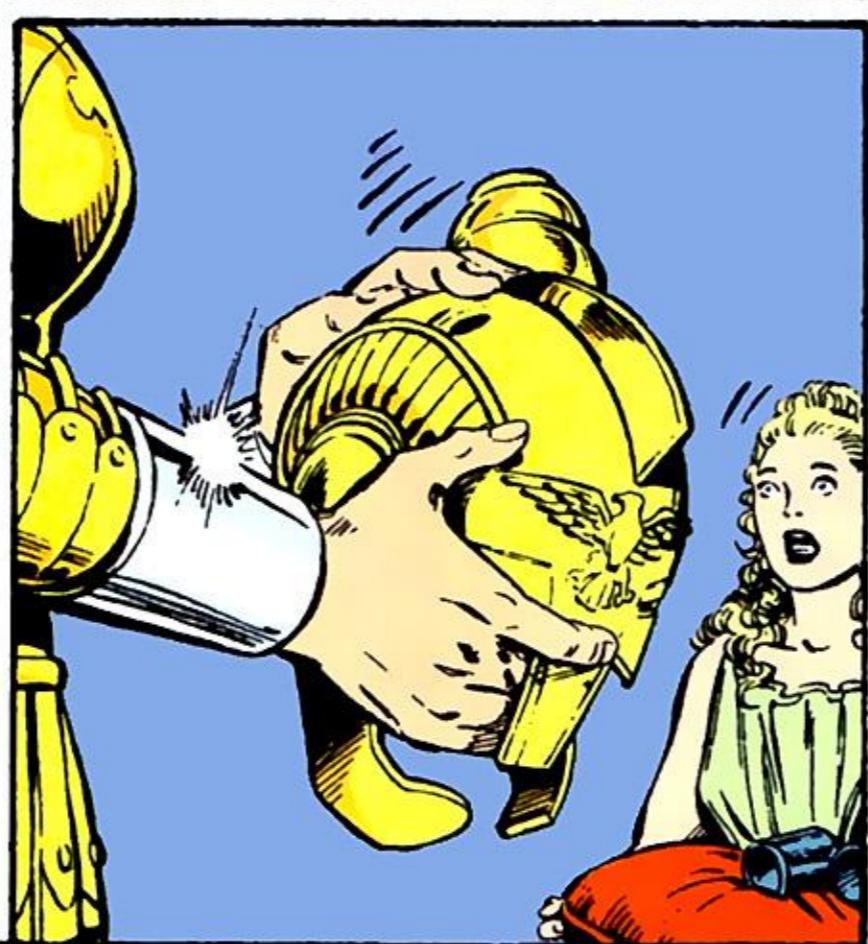
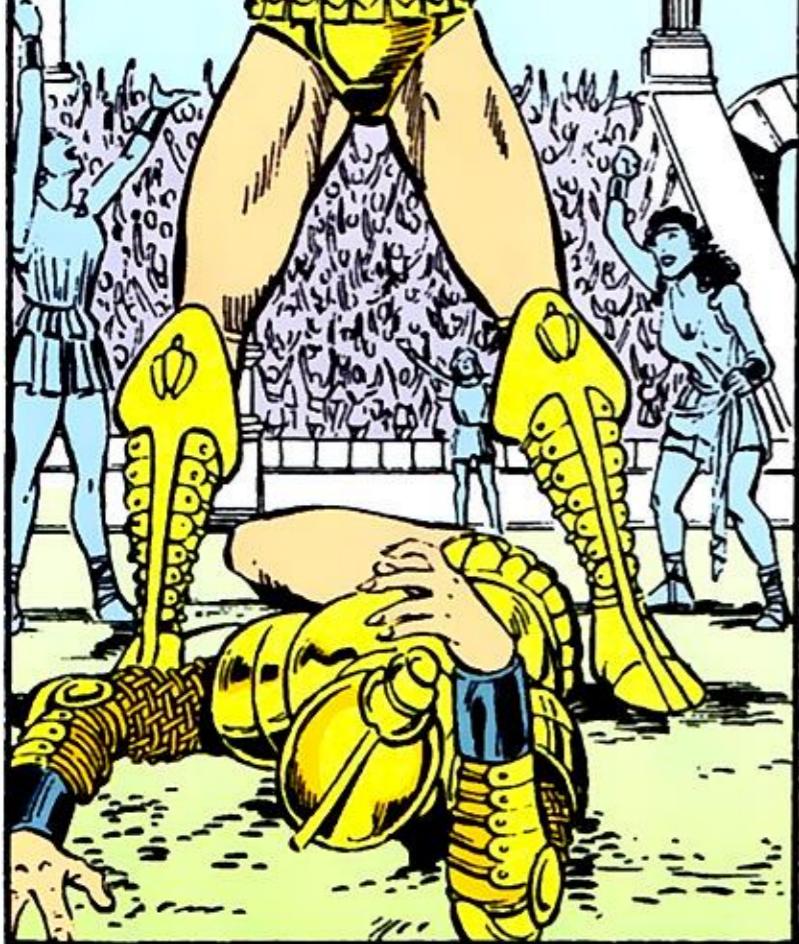
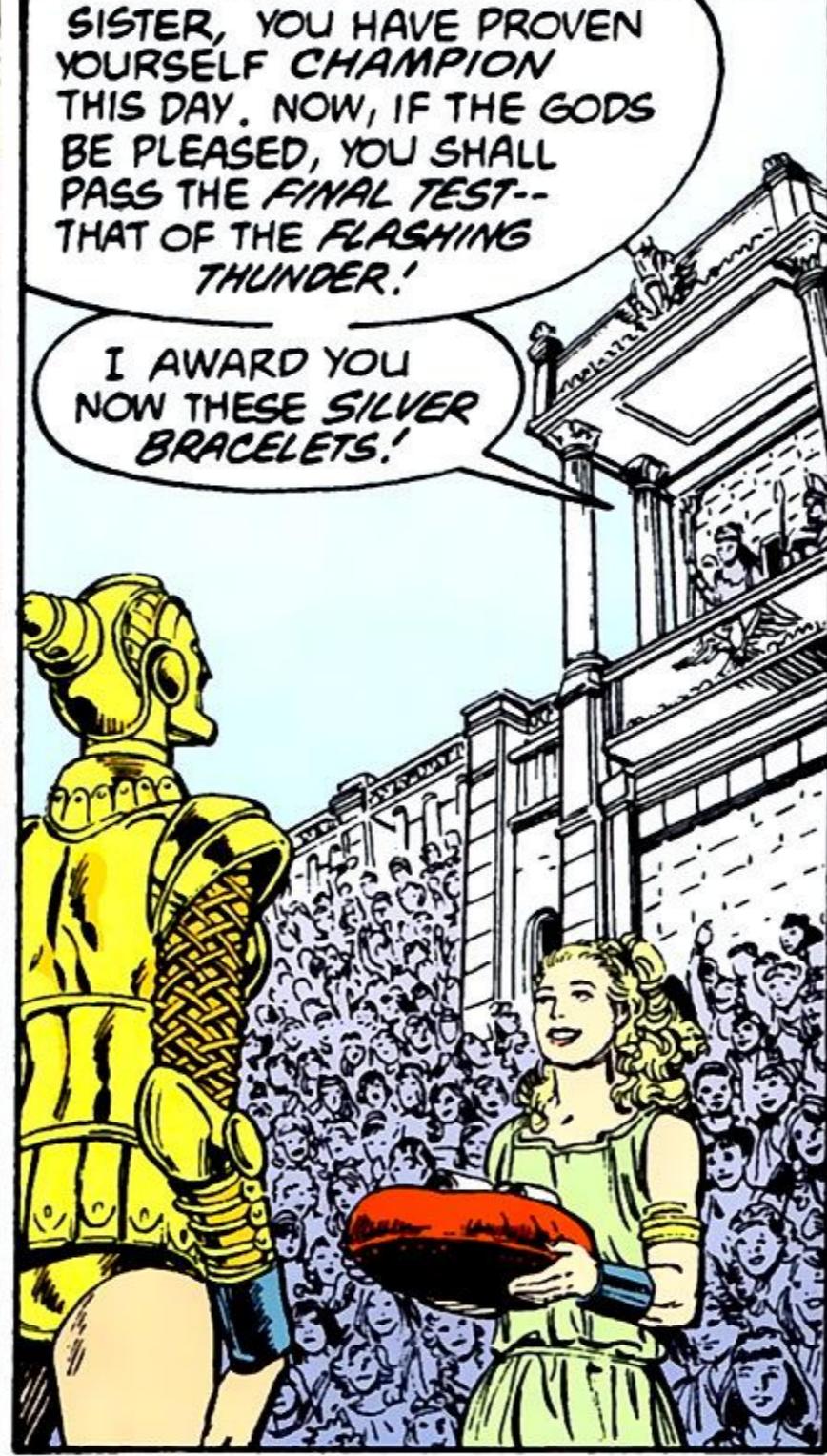
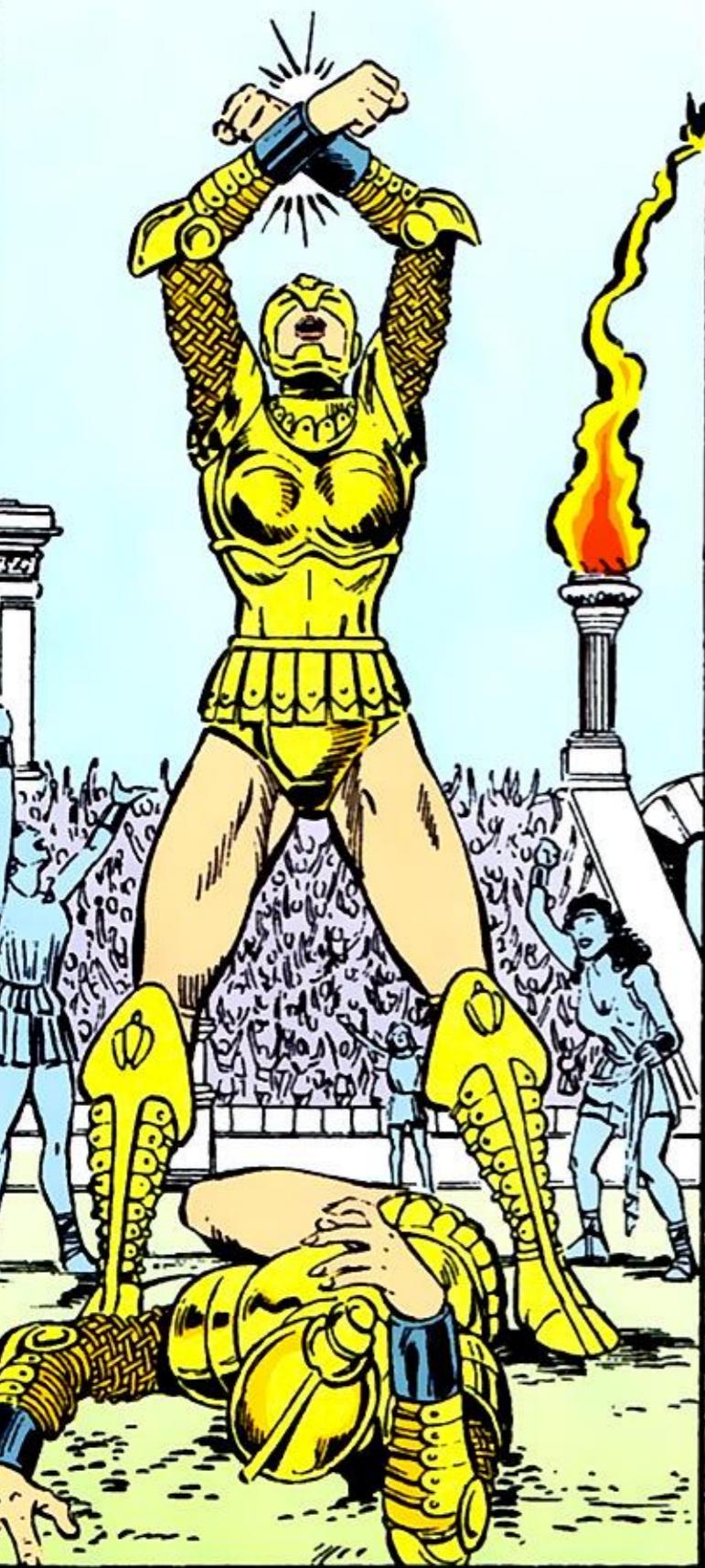
SISTER, YOU HAVE PROVEN YOURSELF CHAMPION THIS DAY. NOW, IF THE GODS BE PLEASED, YOU SHALL PASS THE FINAL TEST-- THAT OF THE FLASHING THUNDER!

I AWARD YOU NOW THESE SILVER BRACELETS!

"BY THEM, ALL SHALL KNOW YOU AS THE MOST WORTHY AMONG US!"

"NOW LET US SEE YOUR FACE..."

...THAT WE, AND THE GODS, MIGHT SMILE UPON IT!



I'M SORRY, MOTHER-- BUT ATHENA HERSELF SPOKE TO ME AS I SAT BY HER STATUE!

I KNOW THAT WHAT I DO IS RIGHT!

DIANA?!!

NO! I FORBID THIS!

HUSH, MY QUEEN! YOU MUSTN'T!

THE PRINCESS WON HER PLACE RIGHTFULLY. YOU CANNOT FIGHT THE WILL OF THE GODS!



NIGHT AT THE TEMPLE OF HADES:

THIS PLACE--IT CHILLS ME, MENALIPPE! WHY HAVE WE COME HERE?

PRINCESS, IF YOU ARE TRULY THE CHAMPION THAT THE GODS WOULD HAVE...

OF ALL AMAZONS WHO HAVE SEEN IT, ONLY THOSE BEFORE YOU STILL LIVE! FOR THE FLASHING THUNDER IS A SECRET AND TERRIBLE PART OF OUR PAST. IT IS A GREAT POWER WHICH CAN DESTROY WITH BUT A SINGLE CLAP!

KNOWING THIS, DO YOU STILL DESIRE TO FACE IT?

I AM NOT AFRAID, MENALIPPE!

SO BE IT! PHILIPPUS! ARE YOU READY?

AYE, ORACLE.

THOUGH WE HAVE NOT SEEN THIS ABOMINATION SINCE THE TRAGEDY...

... I BELIEVE I REMEMBER HOW TO DO IT!

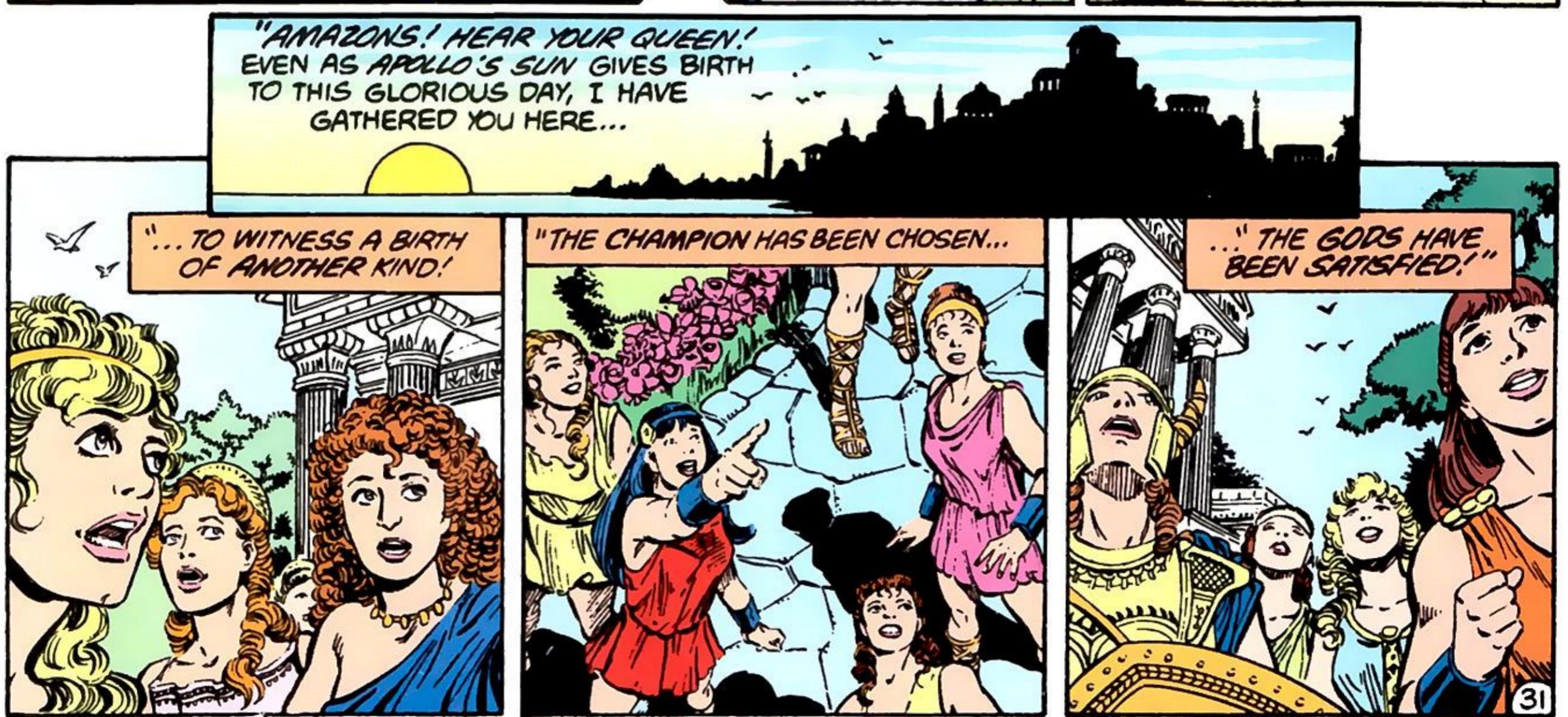
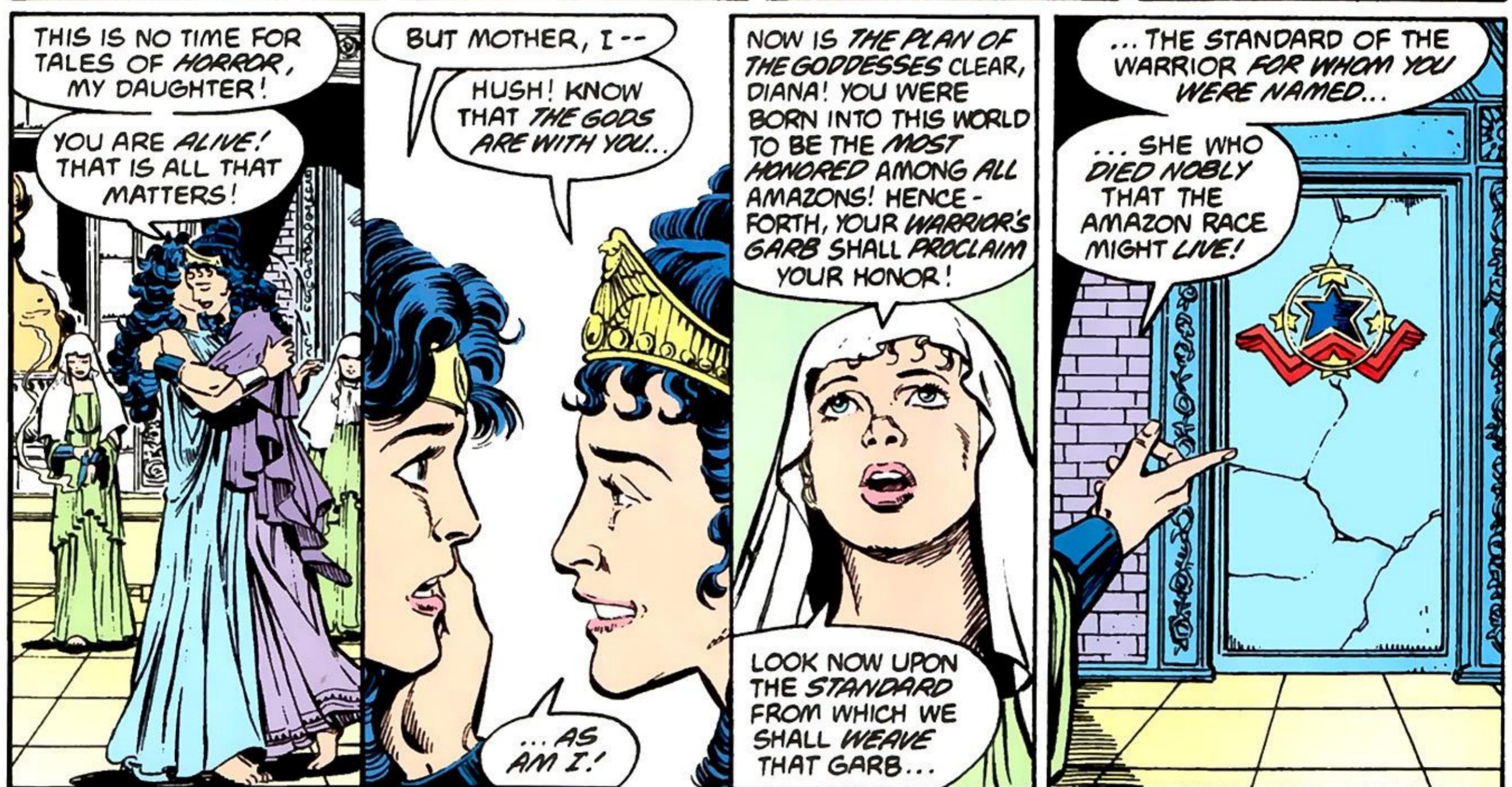
I POINT IT LIKE THIS... AND SQUEEZE!

MY PRINCESS! PREPARE YOURSELF--FOR I SHALL NOT MISS!

DIANA, NO!

MOTHER--I DO LOVE YOU--AND MAY THE GODS EVER PROTECT YOU!

PHILIPPUS! I AM READY!



THERE IS A MOMENT
OF SILENCE. THEN, DIANA
RAISES HER BRACELETS...
AND SMILES.

FROM A THOUSAND
AMAZON THROATS,
A MIGHTY CHEER
RISES TO THE
HEAVENS!

AND ON A MOUNTAIN
CALLED OLYMPUS,
FIVE GODDESSES KNOW
JOY!

ONLY HIPPOLYTE SMILES
NOT--FOR HER THOUGHTS
ARE OF ARES--AND OF
THE WORDS SHE SPOKE
JUST DAYS BEFORE...

"HOW CAN EVEN THE BEST
OF US SUCCEED... WHERE
THE GODS DARE NOT GO?"

AND SO THE QUEEN
PULLS HER CLOAK
AROUND HER... AND
SHIVERS 'NEATH
APOLLO'S SUN!

NEXT:
'THE RETURN OF MAN!'

NEXT ISSUE

Diana's quest
for Ares
begins while
Steve Trevor
rides the air—

with death
as a co-pilot!

TREVOR

MINUTEMEN

KANG HAS NEVER SERVED ANY BUT **HIMSELF**. WHY SHOULD I **ACCEPT** SUCH AN OFFER, ESPECIALLY FROM AN UNKNOWN?

BUT WE ARE **NOT** UNKNOWN, GREAT KANG. YOU KNOW US WELL. AND WE KNOW YOU.

