

MARVEL

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ETERNALS CELESTIA



ETERNALS

CELESTIA

ETERNALS CREATED BY JACK KIRBY

A long, long time ago, alien space gods came to Earth.

They made 100 Eternals.

They made 100 Deviants.

They left.

Everything since has been a complete lie.

A PILGRIM'S COMPLETE LACK OF PROGRESS

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AJAK IS AWAKE.
SHE HOPES SHE IS
STILL ASLEEP. PERHAPS
SHE HAS BEEN
TRAPPED IN SOME
MANNER OF MIND
CAGE AND THIS IS
JUST TORTURE?

THAT "REALITY IS
A LIE" IS HER BEST
HOPE SAYS HOW
LITTLE HOPE SHE
HAS LEFT.

AJAK IS A THEOLOGIAN. IN A SPECIES
WHO IS ON FIRST-NAME TERMS WITH
THEIR GODS, THIS IS A SIGNIFICANTLY
LESS ACADEMIC CALLING.

SHE SPENT 999,995 OR SO YEARS
AS THE PRIME INTERPRETER AND
DIPLOMAT TO THEIR SPACE GODS.

AND THEN THE
CELESTIALS SHUT UP. TO
HER, AT LEAST...UNTIL A
FINAL MESSAGE.

THEY HAD NO
FURTHER USE FOR
THE ETERNALS.

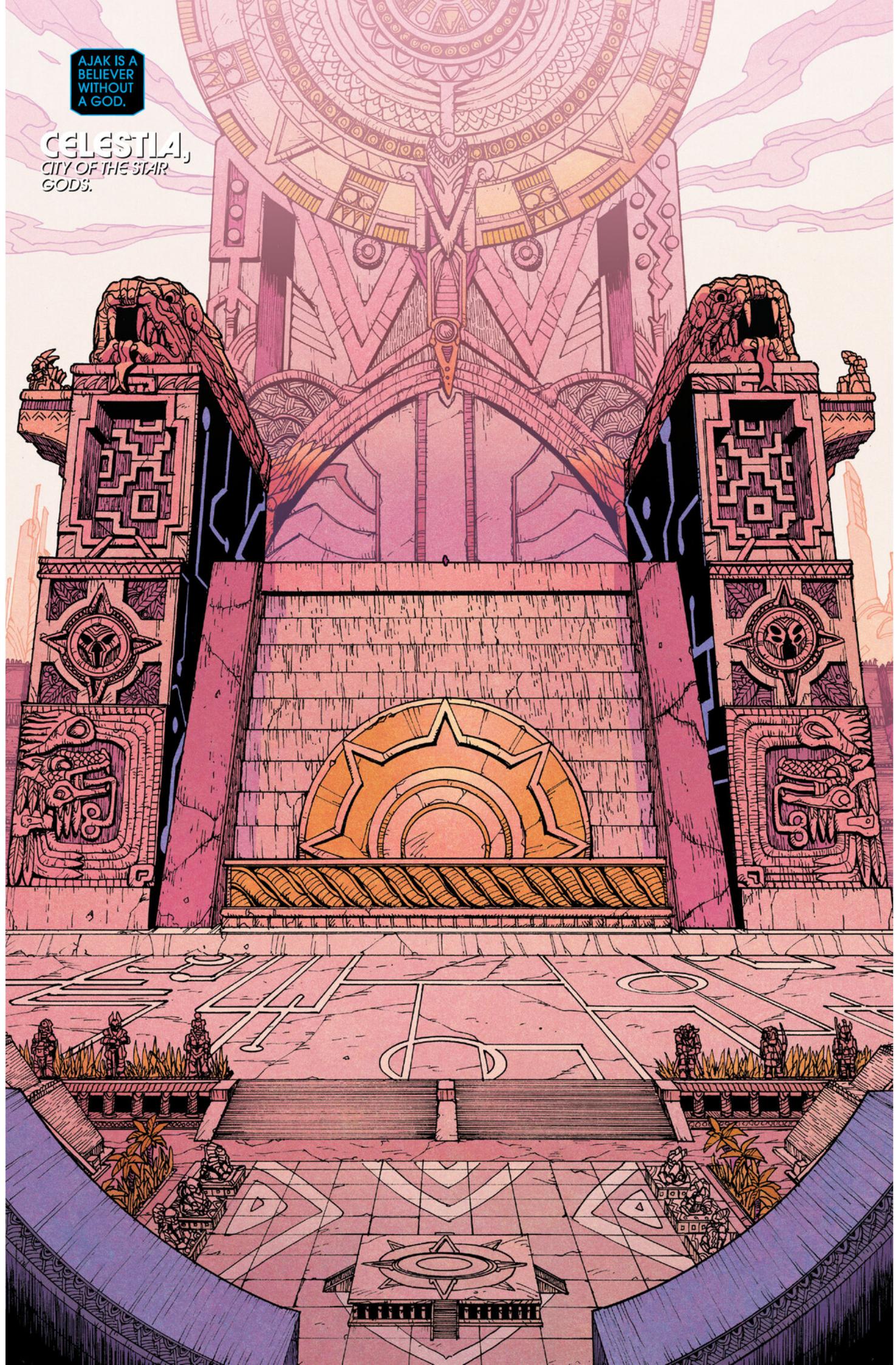
AND THEY
LEFT.

IKARIS IS AN ARROW.
DRUIG IS A SNAKE.
SERSI IS COMPLICATED.

AJAK IS A
BELIEVER.

AJAK IS A
BELIEVER
WITHOUT
A GOD.

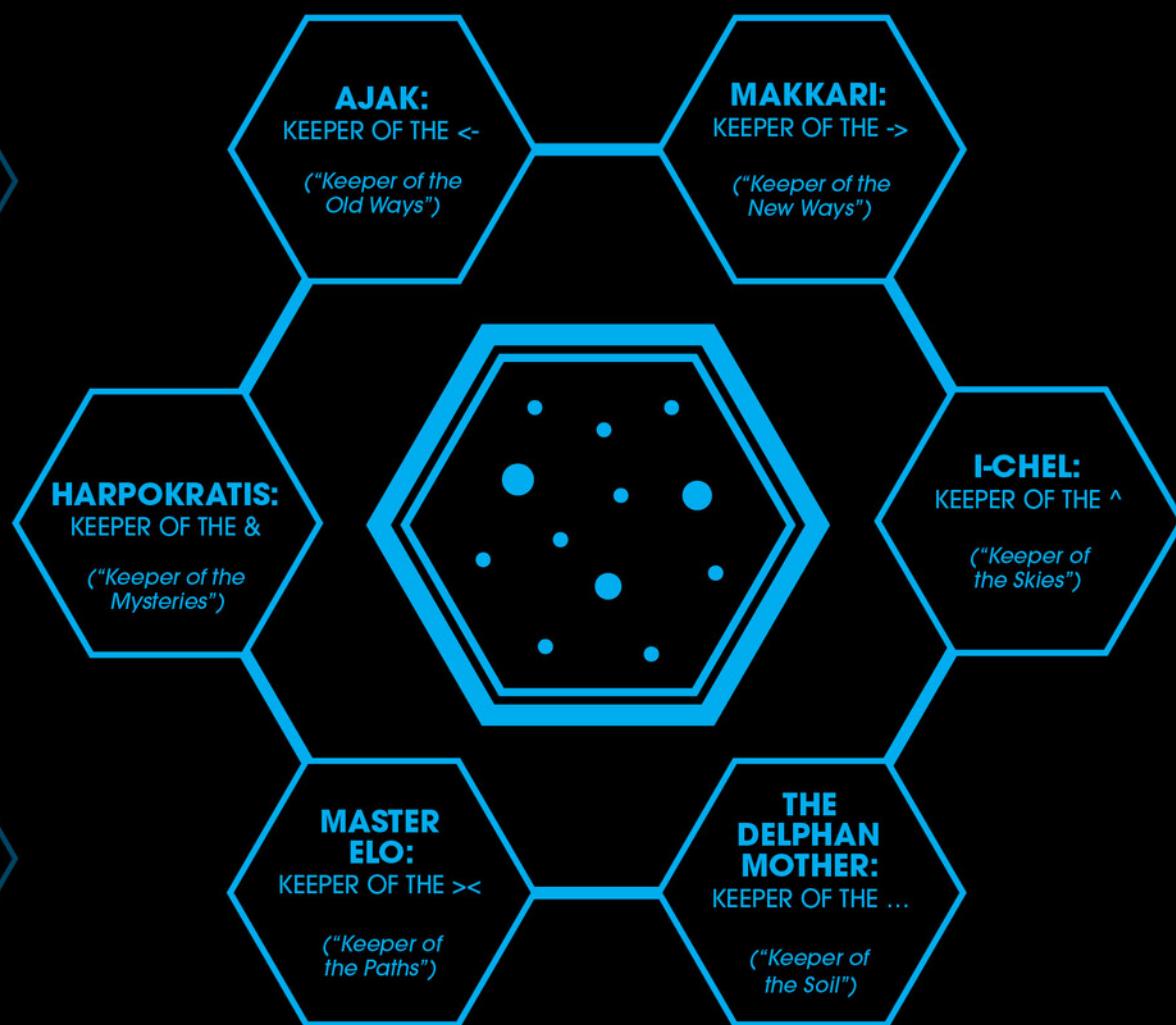
CELESTIA,
CITY OF THE STAR
GODS.



CELESTIA: CITY OF THE STAR GODS

One of the six Eternal Cities of Earth. It is designed to house a Celestial if they visit. It is also the primary site of Eternal spirituality and what they count as their religion.

That the Celestials have abandoned the Eternals means the Priests of Celestia are undergoing a period of intense philosophical self-examination.



AJAK HAS SAT FOR WEEKS, DISTURBED ONLY BY HER THOUGHTS. THIS IS ABOUT TO CHANGE. MAKKARI IS COMING.

HOW TO EXPLAIN MAKKARI? WELL...

...MAKKARI IS FAST.



LEAVE ME ALONE, HERETIC.

I'M THINKING.

THIS MAY SEEM HARSH, BUT IT'S A SIGNIFICANT DÉTENTE.

AJAK TRIED TO MURDER MAKKARI IN RECENT YEARS OVER A DIFFERENCE OF THEOLOGY.

SPECIFICALLY, "WHY IS GOD STILL SPEAKING TO YOU, NOT ME?"

NOW THAT THEY ARE **BOTH** IGNORED, IT IS EASIER FOR AJAK TO SHOW EMPATHY.

YOU ARE NO CLOSER TO UNDERSTANDING. WHATEVER PERSPECTIVE YOU SEEK IS NOT HERE. MOVE ON, AJAK.

WHY ARE WE BEING TESTED SO? WHY ARE OUR GODS SO ANGRY WITH US?

YOUR NEW WAYS ARE OF NO USE TO ME. I SEEK A PATH BACK TO THE OLD ONES.

THEY DON'T HATE US. THEY JUST DON'T CARE. THEY'VE NEVER CARED. WE CAN'T JUST SIT AND BROOD!

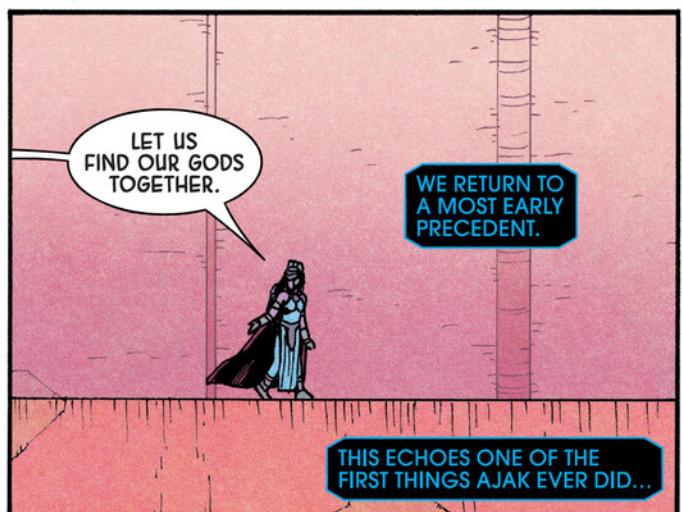
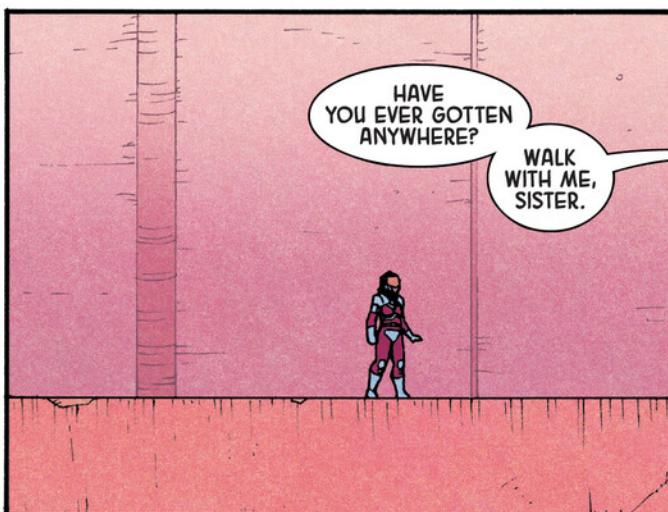
ACT! CHOOSE A PATH! WALK IT!

HMM. THAT'S AN IDEA...

MAKKARI SIGNS. SHE LOST SPEECH, HEARING, AND EVEN THE ABILITY TO BROADCAST TELEPATHY IN A DISASTROUS ATTEMPT TO REACH HER ABSENT, DEAD GOD.

AJAK WONDERS WHY SHE DOESN'T GET THE MACHINE TO RESET HER, BUT DOES NOT ASK. SHE KNOWS THEY ALL HAVE THEIR REASONS.





ONE MILLION YEARS AGO.

THE ETERNALS WERE THE NEW CUSTODIANS OF THE EARTH-- AND AJAK, INTERPRETER OF THE CELESTIALS' TEXTS. NO MATTER HOW OBSCURE...

AT LEAST THEN SHE COULD CALL TO THE HEAVENS TO ASK FOR CLARIFICATION AND EXPECT AN ANSWER...

F CYKM
MNHPD YBFM
WRFKCYM M
FRBMMFKE.

I UNDERSTAND.
I WANTED TO MAKE SURE.

WE ARE READY AND WILL ACT.

I AM HONORED...

SO...
MACHINE...

...TAKE ME TO THEM.

LOOK!

I'M NOT FULLY BLIND, YOU MANGY CREATURE.
I SEE IT...

HEY,
YOU--

THE AVENGERS OF 1,000,000 BCE.

...WHAT
IN HEL'S NAME
ARE YOU?

HMM.



...EVEN A MILLION YEARS AGO, AJAK WAS NOT AFRAID TO LEARN FROM PAIN.

I AM AJAK OF THE ETERNALS. I COME TO YOU, THE AVENGERS...

I WAS CREATED BY THE CELESTIALS--

HOW RUDE, THINKS AJAK.

THEY DIDN'T EVEN LET HER FINISH HER PROVOCATION.

THE STARBRAND CREATURE HAD HEARD ENOUGH.

"CELESTIALS."

AJAK DID NOT COME UNPREPARED. SHE ACTIVATES A CONDUIT...

I ANSWER AND VENT THE PRIMAL ENERGIES OF THE MACHINE.

EVEN FOR A STARBRAND, IT HURTS.

AJAK SUSPECTED THIS WOULD HAPPEN. THE CELESTIALS NEARLY KILLED THESE BEINGS. THE SERVANTS OF THE STAR GODS ARE NO FRIENDS OF THEIRS.

THIS IS BECAUSE... OH, ONE SECOND.

THE RELEVANT HISTORY



For further details, see issues #1-6 of *Avengers* (2018) by the human historians Jason Aaron and Ed McGuinness.

ETERNALS' MEMORY IS COMPLICATED. THEIR SHORT-TERM MEMORY IS OFTEN REBOOTTED. HOWEVER, OTHER LONG-TERM MEMORIES ARE BACKED UP SEPARATELY, WHICH CAN BE ACCESSED AND STUDIED.

STRICTLY SPEAKING, MODERN AJAK DOES NOT **REMEMBER** WHAT IT WAS LIKE TO BE STRUCK BY ODIN IN HIS YOUTH AND RAGE...

...HOWEVER, SHE **HAS** READ A BOOK ABOUT IT--AND A BOOK THAT GIVES A FULL-BODY EXPERIENCE OF THE SENSATION.

SUFFICE TO SAY, EVEN FOR AN INDESTRUCTIBLE BEING, IT'S NOT SOMETHING SHE'D RECOMMEND.

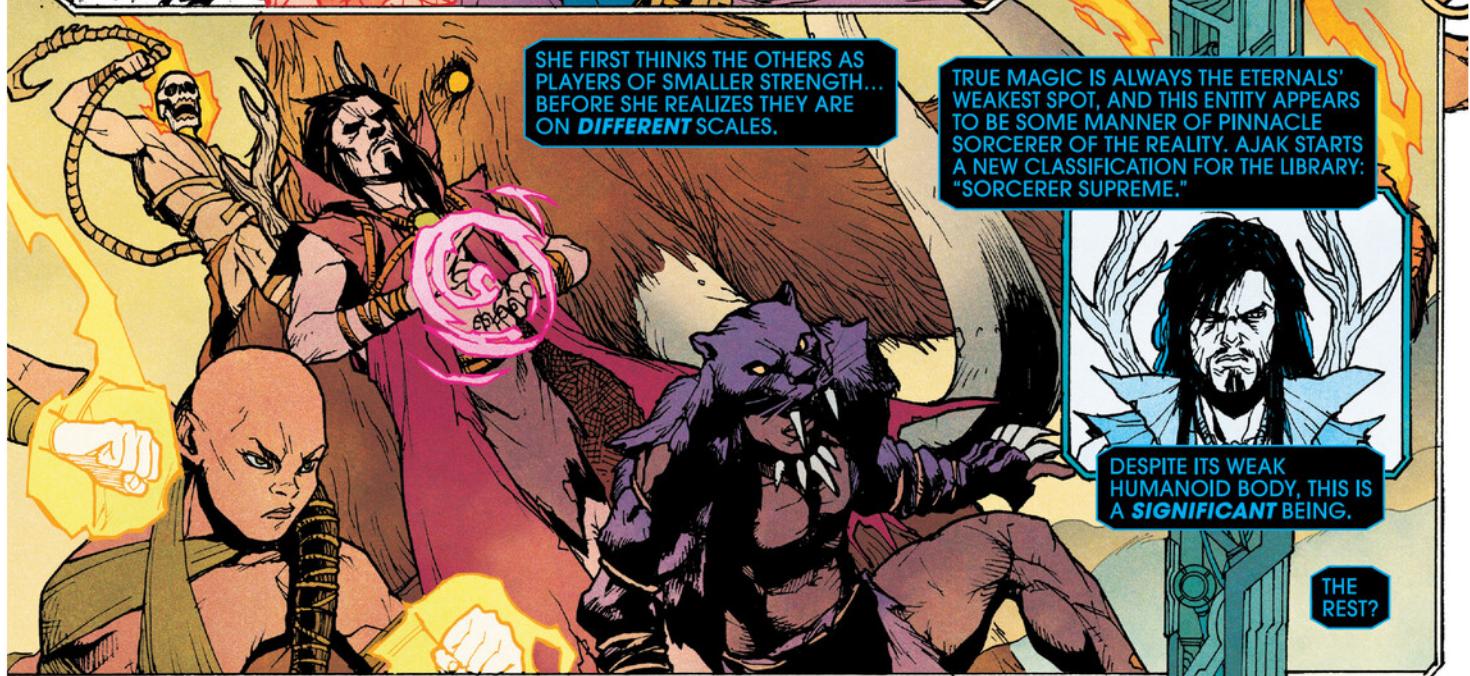
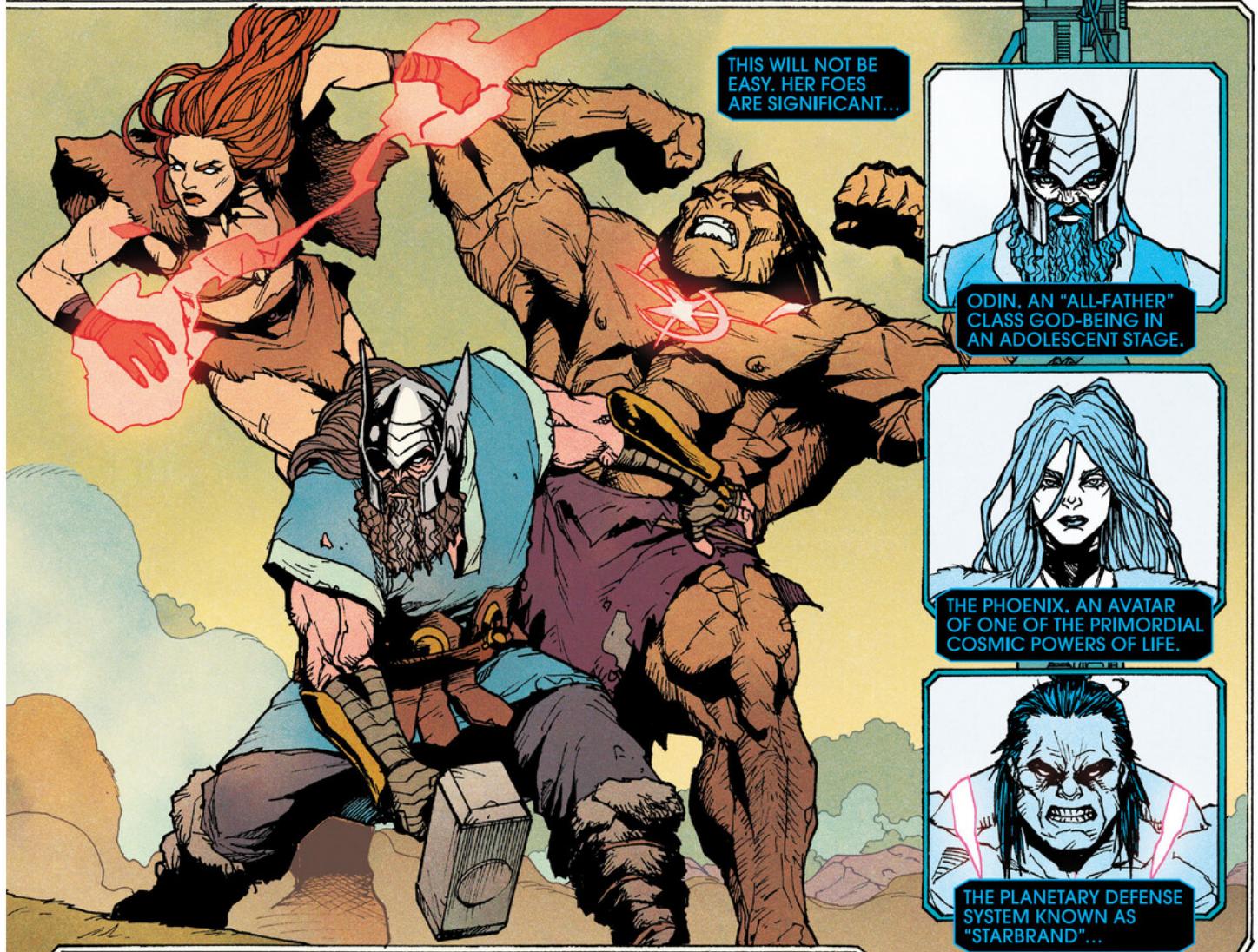
STILL, THIS IS A PILGRIMAGE, NOT A MATTER FOR PLEASURE. SHE COMES SEEKING **ENLIGHTENMENT** AND DEPLOYS HER EQUIPMENT...

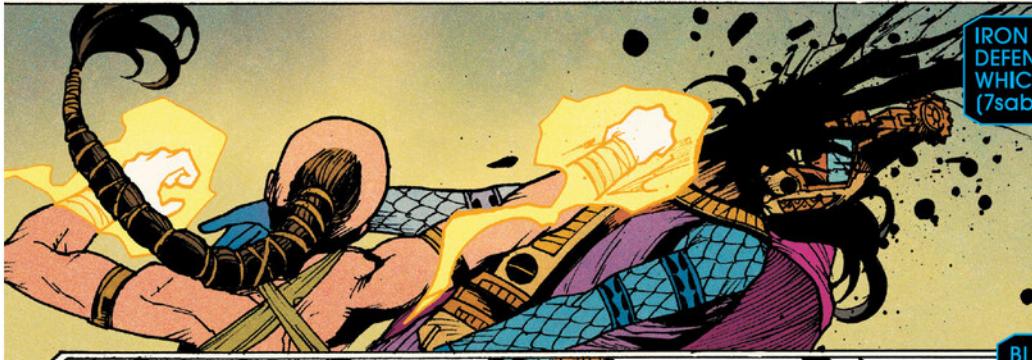
THESE BEAMS DO TWO THINGS.

FIRSTLY, THEY ARE PROBES, GATHERING A HUGE ARRAY OF DATA.

SECONDLY, THEY ARE ENORMOUS DEATH BLASTS.

BECAUSE TO GATHER SUFFICIENT DATA, ONE MUST STAY ALIVE...





IRON FIST. A CHI-ENERGY-ENHANCED DEFENDER STRIKES WITH A STRING OF BLOWS, WHICH AJAK RECORDS AS (54a75B01), (7sabbB), AND A RISING (010).



BLACK PANTHER, A PRECURSOR-SPRIT PIONEER, WHO HAS ALREADY CLAIMED AN AREA OF EARTH'S AFTERLIFE AS THE DOMAIN FOR ITS FUTURE ANCESTORS.



AND A GHOST RIDER. A VENGEANCE SPIRIT OF HELL. THIS GIVES AJAK PAUSE.



DEALS WITH DEMONICS NEVER TURN OUT WELL.



YOU MAY AS WELL HAVE A DEVIENT ON THE TEAM.



AJAK FEELS HER MOLECULES DISASSEMBLE, BUT SHE IS PLEASED. HER INTEGRITY HELD LONG ENOUGH.

SHE HAS SUFFICIENT DATA.

DEATH IS A GREAT TEACHER...

...AS LONG AS YOU GET TO BE AROUND AFTERWARD.

I MOURNED THE DREAMING CELESTIAL. I HAD NO HOPE. AND THEN CAME THE AWFUL TRUTH--WE WERE NOTHING BUT NURSEMAIDS FOR THE HUMANS.

I DESPAIR...
BUT THEN I
UNDERSTOOD.

YOUR GODS MADE US, CHAINED US TO A TASK, AND NOW HAVE ABANDONED US. WE OWE THEM NOTHING.



ONCE, I READ A HUMAN BOOK. I LIKED IT SO MUCH I READ IT FORTY TIMES IN FORTY SECONDS.

IN IT, A MAN MAKES NEW LIFE FROM PARTS OF THE DEAD...

I THINK OF WHAT HAPPENED TO THE DREAMING CELESTIAL, AND...



...I THINK WE SHOULD MAKE OUR GOD. THEN OUR GOD CAN REMAKE US.
THEN GOD AND ETERNAL CAN WRITE A NEW COVENANT TOGETHER... AND A FUTURE.

JOIN ME.



YOU MAKE GOOD POINTS, MAKARI.

I WILL THINK AS I WALK.



THE EXCLUSION,

1,000,000 BCE.

ELSEWHERE ON EARTH,
AN UNFORTUNATE
DEVIANT FALLS DEAD,
NOT KNOWING WHY.

AJAK LIVES
AGAIN.

LISTEN, MY
ETERNALS.
I HAVE GONE
AND LEARNED
OF THESE
BEINGS.

LET ME
SPEAK OF THESE
"AVENGERS."

THEY'RE
DEEPLY
INEFFICIENT,
FOR ONE.

THEY ARE
RANDOM, PUISSANT
INDIVIDUALS GATHERED
TOGETHER FOR THE
LOOSEST OF
CAUSES...

AT THE
MOMENT?

...BUT IT IS
A LOOSE CAUSE
THAT DOES NOT
NECESSARILY INTERFERE
WITH THE PRINCIPLES.
IN MANY WAYS, THEY
ARE ALIGNED.

FOR ALL
THEIR INELEGANCE,
THEY CAN BE VIEWED
AS A SUPPLEMENTARY,
SECONDARY SYSTEM FOR
THE PROTECTION OF
THE MACHINE.

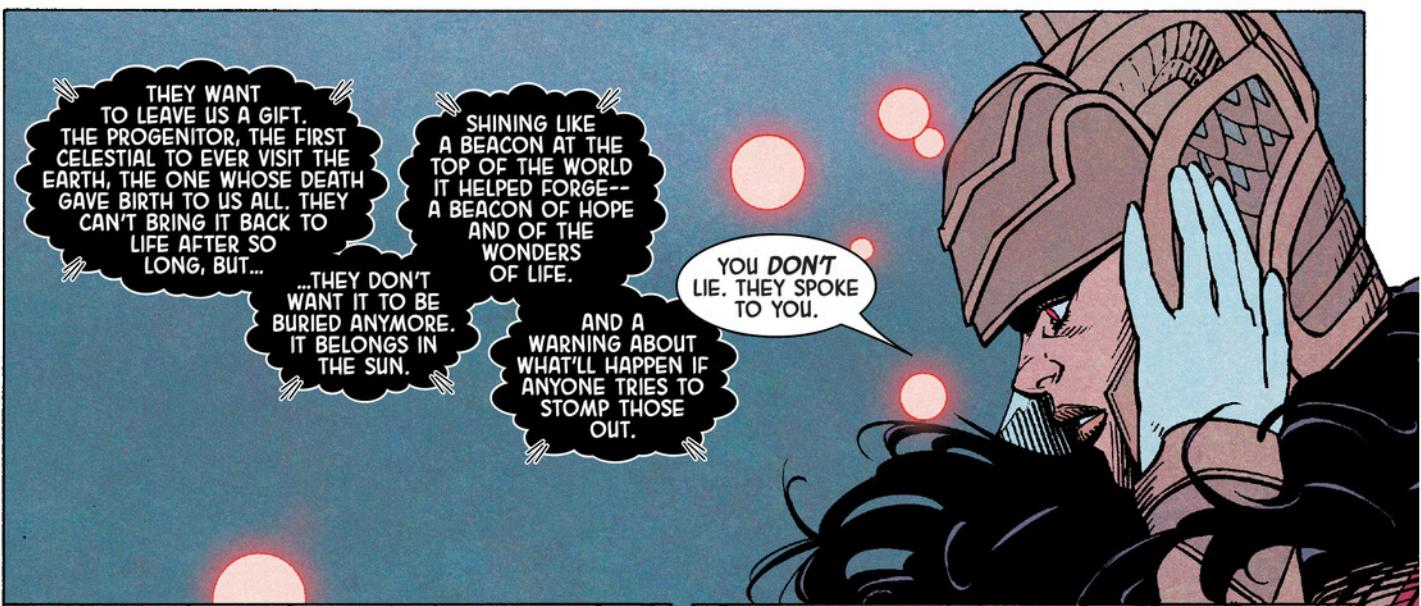


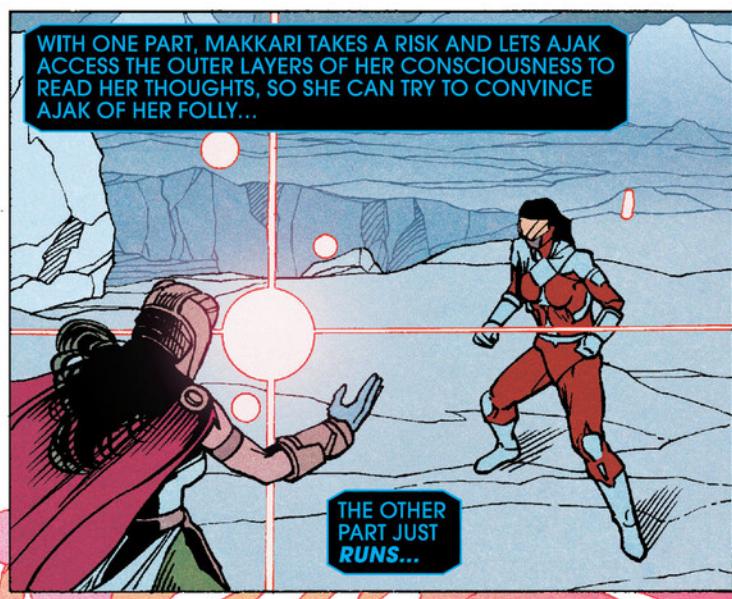
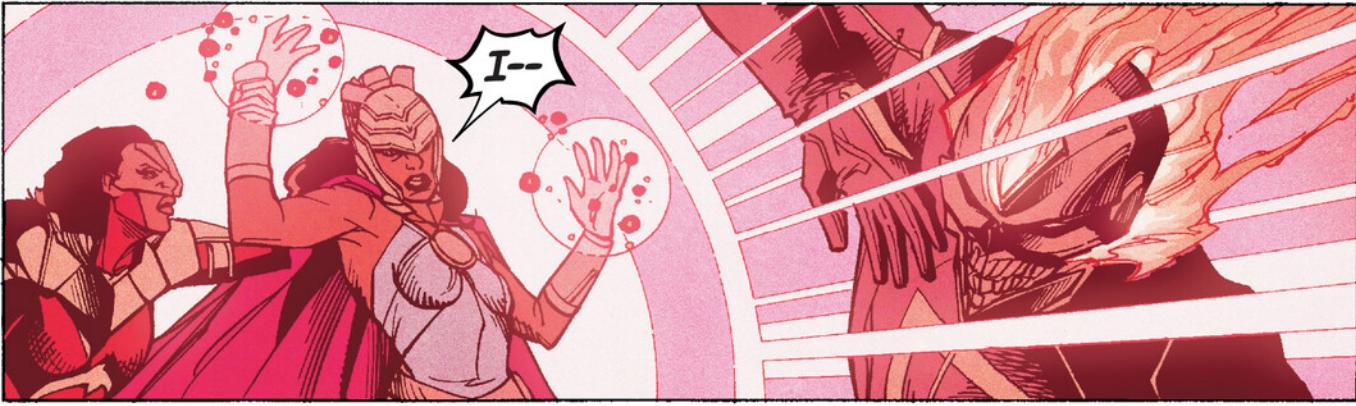
THE
ETERNALS
SHOULD STAND
DOWN.

WE NEED NOT
ANNIHILATE THESE
"AVENGERS."

AVENGERS MOUNTAIN.







IN A LIMITED BUBBLE REALITY, MAKKARI HAS LITERALLY NOWHERE TO RUN—AND AJAK MAKES THE “NOWHERE” SMALLER AND SMALLER, FORCING MAKKARI WITHIN THE RANGE OF HER BLOWS.

MAKKARI KNOWS SHE HAS TO WIN QUICKLY. SHE ATTACKS WITH MICRO STRIKES, ABRADING AJAK’S EPIDERMIS.

AS QUICK AS MAKKARI IS, THE PART OF HER BRAIN THAT FIGHTS KNOWS SHE HASN’T ENOUGH TIME. SHE HAS LOST THE FIGHT.

BUT THE FIGHT IS ONLY HALF THE BATTLE.

YOU CAN’T JUST ATTACK THE AVENGERS! YOU’LL JUST LOSE! YOU’RE THROWING YOURSELF AWAY!

THEY DEFILE GOD AND **BOAST** OF THEIR CONGRESS WITH THE MINDS OF THE CELESTIAL INFINITE!

HOW CAN YOU THINK THAT INSULT CAN BE BORNE?!

I SAW MY GOD DESECRATED. NOW YOU SEE YOURS. WHAT YOU SAW NOW IS WHAT I SAW THEN.

YOU ARE THE ONLY ONE WHO KNOWS HOW I FELT...

...AND I AM THE ONLY ONE WHO UNDERSTANDS YOU. AND I’M TELLING YOU THIS...

IT CAN BE BORNE. IT **HAS** TO BE BORNE. WE ARE PRIESTS. IT IS OUR JOB TO BEAR IT.

AND WITH AJAK’S HAND AROUND THE THROAT OF HER HERETIC FRIEND...



WE HAVE FAILED THE OLD COVENANT AND MUST LIVE UP TO IT.





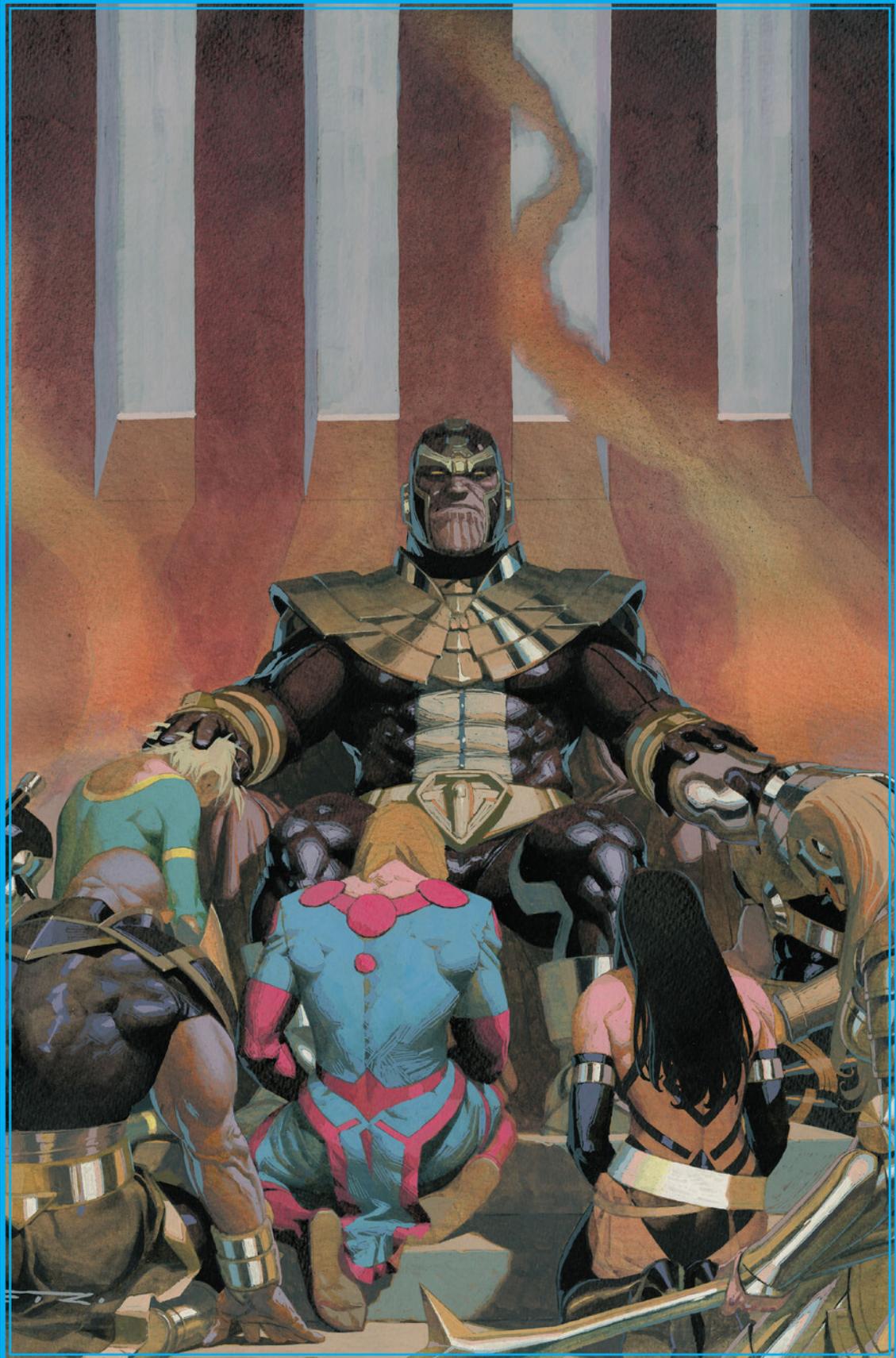
I LET
THE AVENGERS
LIVE.

AND A PRIEST SITS ON THE THRONE
AND PLANS A WAR AS AN ACT OF
PRAYER WITH HER FRIEND WHO
PLANS TO PIECE TOGETHER PARTS
OF OLD GODS INTO THE NEW.

THIS WILL END
WELL, I'M SURE.

THE END.

NEXT



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and mark "okay to print"!

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