



2

# Swordquest<sup>TM</sup>



# FIREWORLD

TM

In Earthworld grim, these Twins have fought  
Twelve beasts of Zodiac birth,  
And mastered thieving as they sought  
For Sword of ultimate worth.

Through Fire world's flames they now do rage  
While Time its toll does add—  
To seven days? A year? An Age?  
Who knows, in a world gone mad?



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# SWORDQUEST

One  
moment  
ago:

THE SWORD  
OF ULTIMATE  
SORCERY,  
SOUGHT BY  
THE SIBLING  
ADVENTURERS  
**TORR AND TARRA**  
IN THE UNDER-  
GROUND KINGDOM  
CALLED EARTHWORLD,  
VANISHED DOWNWARD  
IN A SUDDEN BLINDING,  
WITHERING BLAZE...

...LEAVING  
THE TWO  
YOUNG AND  
UNWILLING  
THIEVES HOLDING  
MERE METAL  
COPIES OF THE  
SWORD, AND NOT  
THE MYSTIC  
BLADE ITSELF...



SO NATURALLY, BROTHER  
AND SISTER HAVE PLUNGED  
HEADLONG AFTER IT!\*

OUR GHOSTLY MENTORS  
CHALLENGED US TO ENTER  
THE SECOND WORLD THAT  
LIES BELOW-- TO CLAIM  
BOTH THE SWORD AND  
OUR OWN DESTINIES!

WELL, WE'VE  
COME THIS FAR--  
AND BY THE GODS,  
WE WON'T STOP  
NOW!

\* AS SEEN IN OUR COMPANION VOLUME  
"EARTHWORLD!"--SOLD WITH  
GAME ONE OF "SWORDQUEST."

THUS DOES ONE  
ENDING BECOME A  
SECOND BEGINNING.

TORR, YOU  
MAY THINK I'M  
MAD, UNDER THE  
CIRCUMSTANCES,  
BUT A CHILL JUST  
RAN DOWN MY  
SPINE--

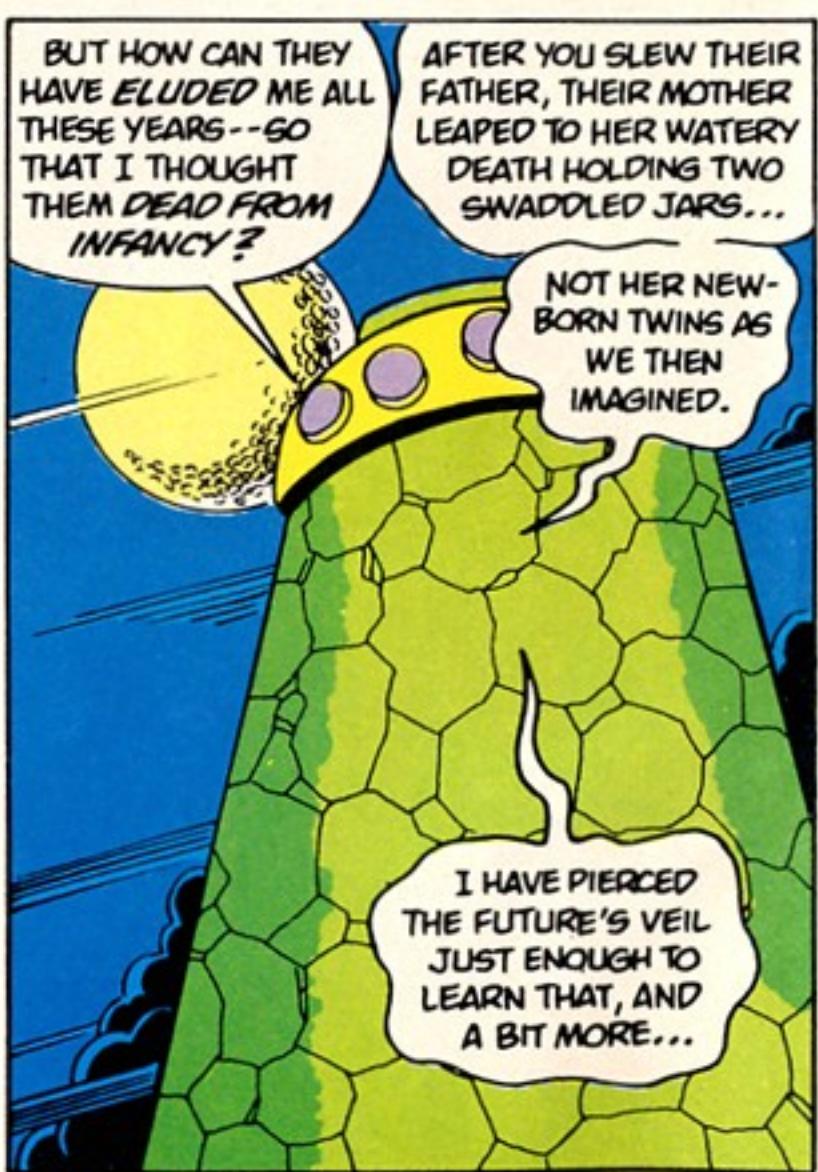
--AS IF,  
SOMEHOW,  
WE WERE BEING  
WATCHED!

AND IN HIS CASTLE  
KEEP HIGH ABOVE,  
THE MALEVOLENT  
WIZARD KONJURO  
SMILES.

IT IS A SMILE  
WITHOUT  
HUMOR...A  
SMILE LIKE  
THE GRIN  
OF DEATH...

BOOK TWO

# FIREWORKS!



"...FOR WHEN THEY STOLE NEAR MY TOWER THIS NIGHT, INTENT ON ROBBING ME, THEIR THOUGHTS OF VENGEANCE WERE STRONG..."

"...SO STRONG THAT THEY HOVERED WRAITH-LIKE IN THE AIR, LONG ENOUGH FOR MY SPELL TO GATHER AND READ THEM, LIKE SO MANY TEA-LEAVES."

"THEY WERE THINKING OF THEIR WARRIOR-FATHER'S DEATH AT YOUR HANDS, AND OF THEIR OWN ORPHANING WHEN THEIR MOTHER SACRIFICED HERSELF FOR THEM..."

"...AS WELL AS OF WHAT HAPPENED IN THE MONTHS AND YEARS WHICH FOLLOWED..."

YOUNG TORR GROWS STRAIGHT AND TALL, EH?

NO TALLER THAN TARRA, HUSBAND.

THEY'RE TWINS, AFTER ALL.

MAY WE GO OUT AND PLAY NOW, FELECIA?

AH, IF ONLY YOU COULD, CHILD!

BUT NO ONE DARES WALK ABROAD IN THE SHADOW OF DARKSPIRE CASTLE, AFTER THE NIGHT-BELL HAS SOUNDED, AND--

**BONG BONG**

LISTEN! IT TOLLS--AND ALL MUST OBEY THE CURFEW, THIS NIGHT AS EVERY NIGHT FOR FIVE YEARS NOW--!

"AND WE KNOW FULL WELL WHY FREEMAN AND SLAVE ALIKE WERE FORCED TO HIDE THEIR FEARFUL HEADS INDOORS FROM DUSK TO DAWN, DO WE NOT, TYRANNUS?

"TO FORESTALL POSSIBLE REBELLION AGAINST YOUR RULE, YOU BADE ME UNLEASH TWO SWORD-WIELDING NETHER DEMONS EACH DAY AS THE SUN DIED BURNING IN THE WEST...

"... DEMONS WHO COULD NOT BE PERCEIVED BY HUMAN EYE...

"... YET WHO APPEARED TO THE CRINGING POPULACE AS A SINISTER MIST WHICH SNAKED ITS WAY THROUGH STREET AND ALLEYWAY OF THE CITY BELOW...



"...BRINGING A HIDEOUS DEATH TO ALL WHO COULD NOT REACH HOME AND HEARTH IN TIME!"



"WHILE, WITHIN ONE OF THOSE HOVELS..."

IF ONLY WE DARED REVEAL THEIR TRUE SELVES, FELECIA --INSTEAD OF HIDING THEIR GOLDEN LOCKS BENEATH THAT CRUDE, DARK DYE--

THEY'RE BUT CHILDREN, GARTH--NOT WARRIOR'S LIKE THEIR SIRE.

--THE PEOPLE MIGHT RISE AGAINST TYRANNUS, AND BRING HIM DOWN!

WOULD YOU SEAL THEIR DEATH WARRANTS?

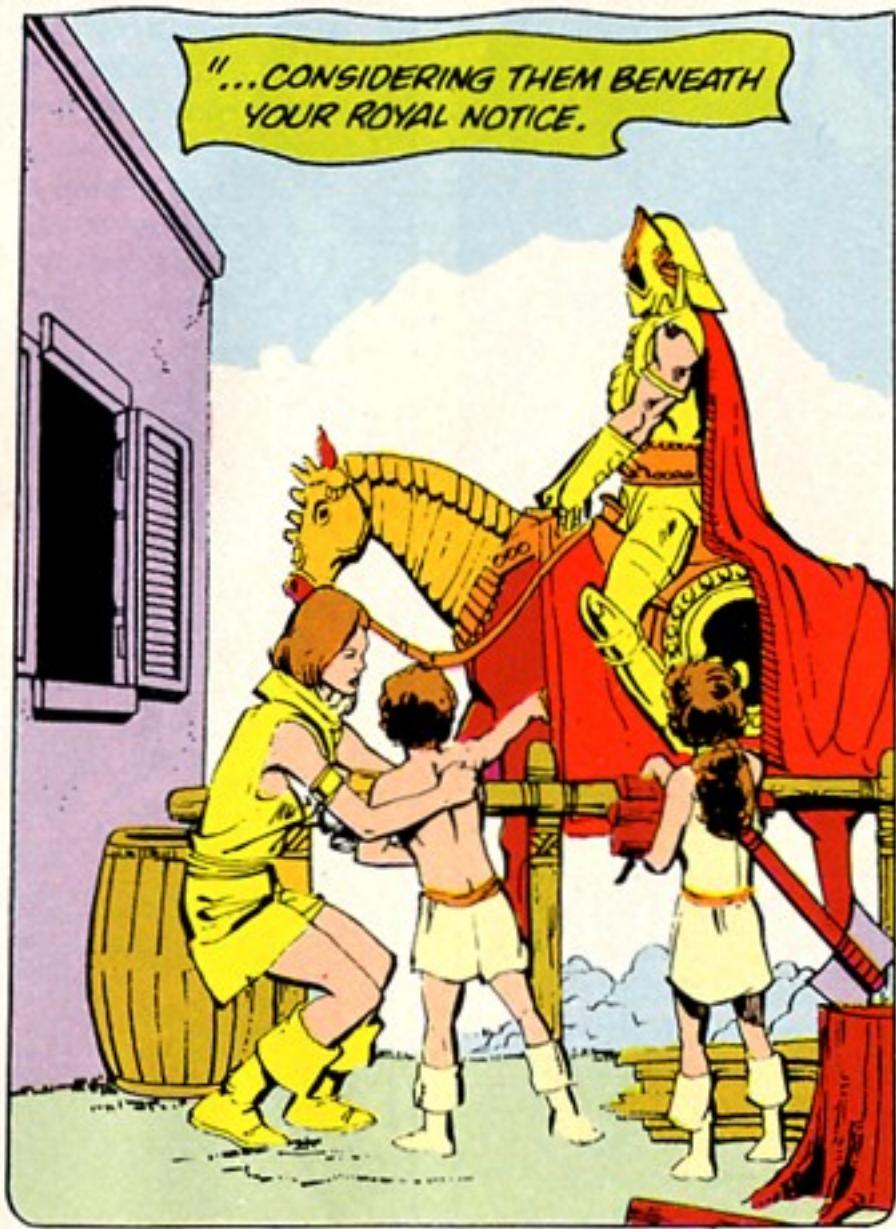
"AND SO, UNKNOWING, YOU HAVE REIGNED FOR NIGH A SCORE OF YEARS, THINKING YOURSELF SAFE FROM THE PROPHECY REVEALED TO ME IN A MAGICAL TRANCE..."

"...RIDING LIKE A HELMETED DEITY AMONG YOUR QUIVERING SUBJECTS."



"HOW OFTEN YOU MUST HAVE PASSED CLOSE BY THOSE TWO DARK-HAIRED BRATS AS THEY GREW UP..."

"...CONSIDERING THEM BENEATH YOUR ROYAL NOTICE."



"WHEN THEY WERE OF AN AGE TO UNDERSTAND SUCH THINGS, THEY WERE TOLD OF THEIR TRUE HERITAGE..."

"THEY MERELY WORKED AT THE HOMELY TASKS THEIR PSEUDO-PARENTS SET FOR THEM, TILL ONE DAY QUITE RECENTLY--"

"...BUT STILL, HAVING NEVER KNOWN THEIR REAL PARENTS, THEY DID NOT HATE."

TORR....!?

I--I HEARD IT, MY SISTER--CRIES FROM THE STREET BELOW!

IT SOUNDED LIKE--

--TO SEE THOSE THEY HAD CALLED MOTHER AND FATHER FOR SO LONG, LYING LIFELESS IN THE DIRT OF THE STREET.

"AND OVER THEIR BODIES, THE ARMORED FORM OF MALAVOL, YOUR CAPTAIN OF GUARDS..."

"...THE MAN WHO HAD PRESIDED OVER THE SLAYING OF THEIR TRUE PARENTS SO MANY YEARS BEFORE."



"IF I WERE A NORMAL MORTAL, MY KING, I MIGHT ALMOST SYMPATHIZE WITH THE TWO WIDE-EYED STRIPLINGS, AS THEY GAZED OUT THE WINDOW--"

"HOW HORRIFIED AND SPEECHLESS THEY MUST HAVE BEEN, FOR AN ETERNAL MOMENT..."

"...TORN BE-TWEEN WHAT THEY SAW, AND DESIRED TO DO..."



"...AND THE YEARS OF ADMONITION FROM THEIR FOSTER PARENTS TO KEEP HIDDEN, AND GIVE NO OFFENSE TO THE KING OR HIS MEN."



"YET SO INGRAINED IN THEM WERE THE HABITS OF OBEDIENCE THAT NEITHER BOY NOR GIRL LIFTED A HAND AGAINST MALAVOL AT THAT MOMENT..."

"...BUT MERELY EMBRACED THE POOR DEAD FIGURES, AS IF HOPING TO BREATH PRECIOUS LIFE BACK INTO THEM."

"AND SO IT MIGHT HAVE REMAINED, HAD MALAVOL POSSESSED THE GOOD SENSE TO KEEP HIS OWN MOUTH SHUT."

OH,  
FATHER...  
FATHER...!"

MOTHER..."

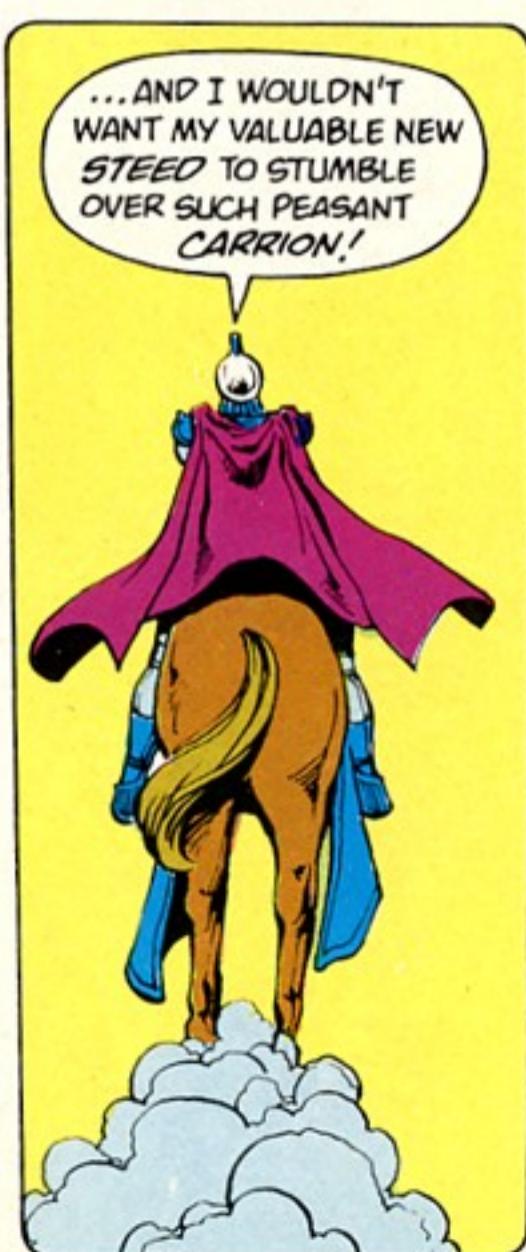


"BUT OF COURSE HE DID NOT."

YOU TWO! BE SURE THESE CARCASSES ARE BURIED AT ONCE...

FOR, I'LL BE RIDING BACK THROUGH HERE IN A LITTLE WHILE..."

...AND I WOULDN'T WANT MY VALUABLE NEW STEED TO STUMBLE OVER SUCH PEASANT CARRION!



WHAT IN  
THE NAME OF  
ALL THE  
GODS--?

WOK!

WHO THREW  
THAT STONE??  
SPEAK!

DON'T TRY TO  
HIDE OR I'LL BURN  
DOWN THE WHOLE  
CITY, TILL I  
FIND--

I THREW IT,  
YOU LAPDOG TO  
A MURDEROUS  
TYRANT!

NO!  
IT WAS  
I!

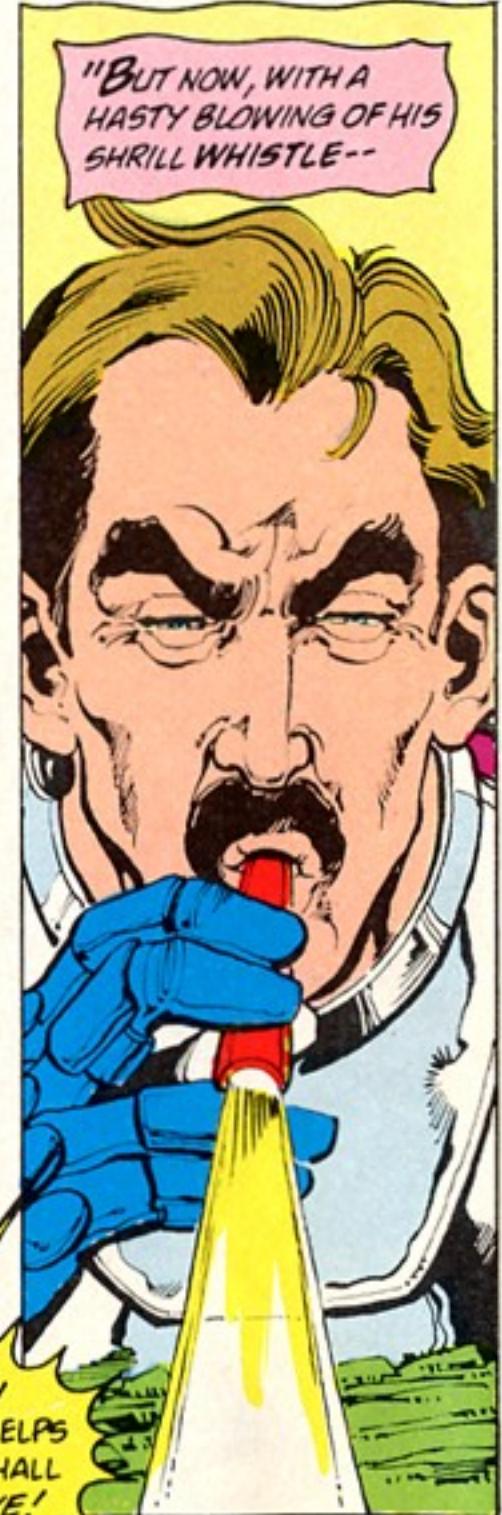
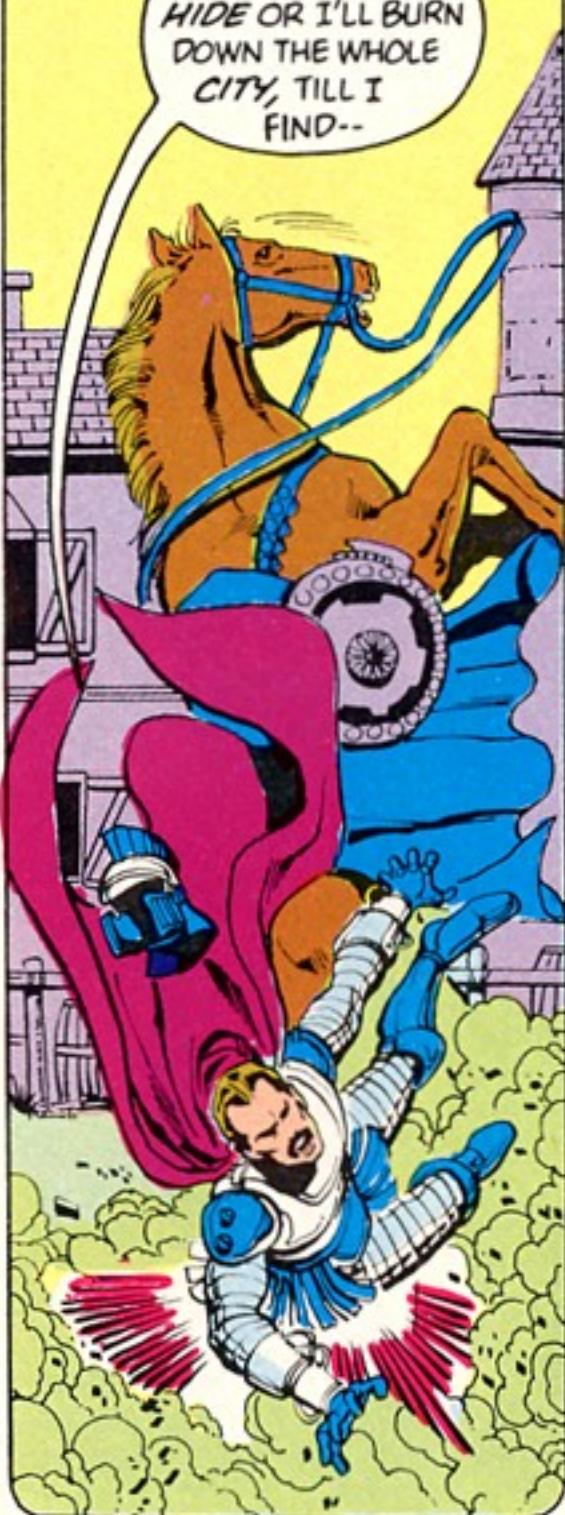
TARRA--NO!  
YOU'LL JUST GET  
YOURSELF  
KILLED--LIKE  
THEY WERE!

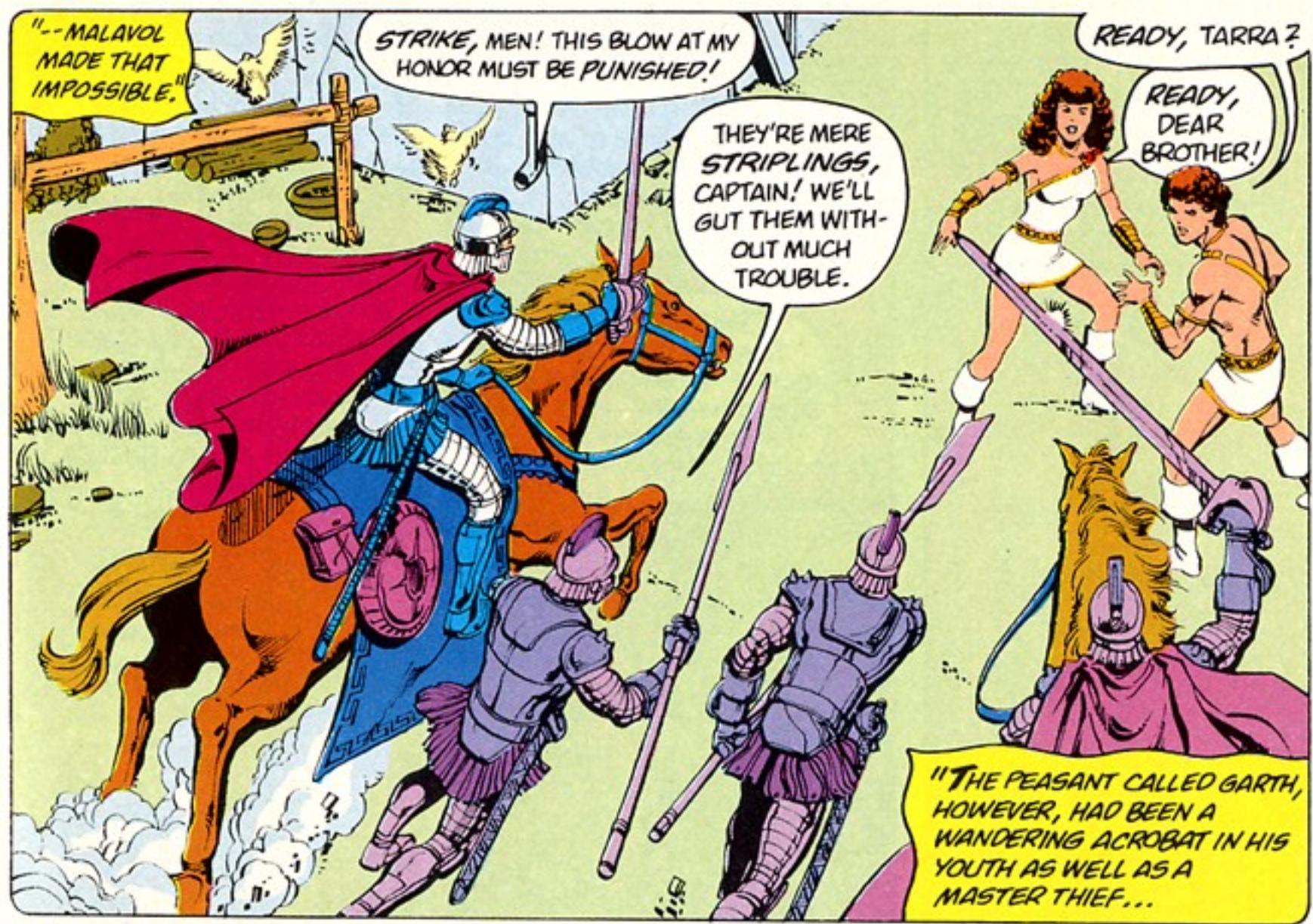
DO YOU THINK I  
CARE--WHILE THE  
MAN WHO SLEW  
GARTH AND FELECIA  
LIVES?

"CONSIDER THE IRONY, MY  
KING: IF NOT FOR THIS PETTY  
INCIDENT, THE DISGUISED  
TWINS MIGHT HAVE LIVED ALL  
THEIR LIVES, WITHOUT STRIKING  
A BLOW IN VENGEANCE.

"BUT NOW, WITH A  
HASTY BLOWING OF HIS  
SHRILL WHISTLE--

IF IT'S DEATH  
YOU COURT, WHELP  
--THEN DEATH SHALL  
YOU BOTH HAVE!





"FUGITIVES NOW, THE PAIR  
BECAME THIEVES... AND THUS  
CAME TO PASS WHERE WE NOW  
BEHOLD THEM, MY KING. THEY--"

"THE FLAMES THEY  
PLUNGE THROUGH DO  
NOT SEEM TO HARM  
THEM. I MUST TALK  
WITH THEM, KONJURO!"

HEED MY WORDS, YE  
POOR OFF-SPRING OF MY  
MOST FAITHFUL WARRIOR,  
MY MOST BELOVED  
FRIEND, TARR!

SISTER!  
THAT VOICE--IT  
SEEMS TO COME FROM  
EVERWHERE--YET  
FROM INSIDE MY  
OWN BRAIN--!

AYE, CHILDREN! I  
AM TYRANNUS--AND I  
SPEAK TO YOU AS A FRIEND,  
WHO HAS SEEN THE FOLLY  
OF HIS WAYS.

KONJURO SAYS  
THAT IF YOU WILLINGLY  
SURRENDER YOUR OWN  
WILLS TO HIS, HE CAN  
DRAW YOU BACK FROM  
THE INFERNO INTO WHICH  
YOU HAVE RASHLY HURLED  
YOURSELVES.

DO SO, I  
PRAY YOU...  
FOR YOUR OWN  
SAKES!

I  
HEAR IT,  
TOO.

TYRANNUS!

"AS YOU WISH,  
ROYAL TYRANNUS.  
SPEAK... AND  
THEY SHALL  
INSTANTLY HEAR."

AND FROM THE  
WORDS IT SPEAKS  
-- THERE'S ONLY  
ONE MAN IT  
CAN BE--!

THE MAN  
WHO SLEW  
OUR TRUE  
FATHER--  
-- AND HOUNDED  
OUR MOTHER TO  
HER DEATH!

TOO TRUE,  
ALAS... BUT A MAN  
NOW VASTLY CHANGED  
AND REPENTANT,  
AND WILLING TO SHARE  
HIS THRONE WITH  
THOSE HE WRONGED  
IN HIS TRAGIC  
YOUTH!

DO NOT DOOM  
YOURSELVES WITH  
FOOLISH ACTIONS--  
WHEN I OFFER  
YOU TWO-THIRDS  
OF A TRIPLE  
CROWN!

Y-YOU  
EXPECT US--  
TO TRUST  
YOU!?

YOU--WHO,  
THEY SAY,  
MURDERED  
EVEN HIS  
OWN ROYAL  
FATHER?

WHAT MEANS  
THAT TO YOU,  
COMPARED TO  
THE RICHES AND  
POWER I WILL  
GRANT YOU?

THINK OF WHAT  
I OFFER--COMPARED  
TO WHAT LIES BELOW,  
EVEN IF YOU SURVIVE  
YOUR FALL!

THINK,  
MY DEAR  
YOUNG  
FRIENDS--  
THINK!

--THE ADVENTURE IN  
KONJURO'S LONELY  
TOWER, FROM WHICH  
THEY FLED, PURSUED  
BY A THING FROM  
BEYOND.

THEY REMEMBER THE  
GHOST-LIKE MENTORR  
WHO APPEARED, AND BADE  
THEM SEEK OUT THE  
SWORD OF ULTIMATE  
SORCERY--

--DOWN A DARK-  
YAWNING PIT WHICH  
LED DOWN TO THE  
PLACE CALLED  
EARTHWORLD.

AND, BECAUSE THEY ARE  
ONLY HUMAN, AFTER ALL,  
TARRA AND TORR DO INDEED  
THINK--AND THEY REMEM-  
BER THIS NIGHT'S STRANGE  
DOINGS--

IT WAS, THE MENTORS  
SAID, BUT THE FIRST OF  
FOUR WORLDS THE  
YOUNG THIEVES MUST  
FOLLOW IN PURSUIT OF  
WHATEVER DESTINY IS  
HELD IN STORE FOR THEM.

YET WHAT A  
WORLD IT  
TURNED OUT  
TO BE!

TWELVE SEPARATE  
AND INTERCONNECTED  
CHAMBERS, EACH  
LORDED OVER BY A  
LIVING INCARNATION  
OF A ZODIAC  
SYMBOL--

--WHO EITHER ATTACKED  
OR AIDED THE YOUTHFUL  
SIBLINGS ON THEIR QUEST  
FOR THE MYSTIC SWORD.

STILL TORR  
AND TARRA  
PERSEVERED--  
AND EVENTUALLY  
TRIUMPHED--

--GAINING NOT  
THE SWORD, BUT  
AT LEAST THE  
ZODIACAL TALIS-  
MAN WITH IT--

--A TALISMAN  
WHICH HAD METAMOR-  
PHOSED, IN  
TURN, INTO  
TWIN SWORDS  
FOR TWIN  
ADVENTURERS!

SUCH ARE TORR'S AND TARRA'S THOUGHTS AS

WELL, MY YOUNG FRIENDS? HAVE YOU CONSIDERED MY GENEROUS OFFER?

AYE, TYRANNUS-- AND WE HURL IT BACK IN YOUR TEETH!

WE'LL MAKE NO DEALS WITH THE SLAYERS OF ALL THOSE WHO LOVED US!

FOR ONCE, BROTHER, YOU'RE NO MORE IMPETUOUS THAN I'D BE!

SO BE IT! BUT KNOW YOU THAT MY DEMONS SHALL DOG YOUR TRAIL, WHILE YOU SEEK THE SWORD OF ULTIMATE SORCERY--

--AND EVEN IF YOU FIND IT, IT WILL EVENTUALLY WIND UP IN MY ROYAL HANDS, WHERE IT BELO--

MILORD KING...

MY SPELL FADES AS THEY PASS FURTHER INTO THE WORLD BELOW, AND THEY CAN NO LONGER HEAR YOU.

CURSE THOSE INFERNAL MEDDLERS, MENTORR AND MENTARRA --MY FORMER COUNCILORS!

IT WAS THEY WHO FORGED THAT MAGICAL SWORD--

AND NOW, EVEN THOUGH THEY HAVE ENTERED AN ETHEREAL STATE, IT SEEMS THEY HOLD IT OVER YOUR HEAD, EH, MY KING?

GIVE UP NOT SO EASILY! THE WAY BEFORE THE YOUNG THIEVES IS LONG AND HARD... AND THEY MAY YET FALTER AND FAIL... AND DIE.

AS, NO LONGER WITHIN EVEN SORCEROUS EARSHOT OF THE USURPER OF DARKSPIRE...

BY THE GODS! THE FLAMES DON'T REALLY BURN US-- EVEN SLOW OUR FALL --BUT IT SEEMS WE'VE BEEN DESCENDING FOREVER.

IF THEY DON'T, KONJURO, I DEPEND UPON YOU TO FIND STILL ANOTHER WAY TO REACH AND DESTROY THEM.

FOR IF I FALL BEFORE THEM AND THE SWORD-- SO SHALL YOU!

IT'S NO MERE LAND OF FLAME WE ENTER, TORR-- BUT OF WIZARDRY AND WONDER.

IN FACT, IT SEEMS OUR DOWNWARD PLUNGE IS ABOUT TO END--



--BUT I DON'T  
KNOW IF THAT'S  
A CAUSE FOR  
REJOICING OR  
DESPAIRING!

SHADES OF  
A THOUSAND  
SPIRITS!

GENTLE IF STIFLINGLY  
HOT WINDS SEEM TO  
BUOY THE STARTLED  
PAIR TO A FEATHER-  
SOFT LANDING...

--IN THE SCARLET WORLD CALLED--

**FIREWORLD!**  
AND NEVER WAS A  
PLACE MORE APTLY  
NAMED!

VOLCANOES--  
BLAZING GEYSERS  
--RIVERS OF LAVA--  
AS FAR AS THE  
EYE CAN SEE!

WE'LL PASS OUT  
FROM THIS TERRIBLE  
HEAT--UNLESS WE  
FIND A COOLER  
SPOT, AND  
QUICKLY.

WE'D BETTER TALK THIS  
OVER, AND FIGURE OUT  
WHICH DIRECTION  
WE SHOULD--



YET, AS TARRA'S LITHE FORM VANISHES FROM VIEW...

NOW, WHAT MADE ME PICK A FIGHT WITH HER THAT WAY?

WELL, NOTHING TO BE DONE FOR IT NOW.

MY ONLY HOPE IS TO FIND THE SWORD, WHEREVER IT FELL--

--THEN USE IT TO FIND HER, AND GET US BOTH OUT OF HERE--

--BEFORE WE BOTH PERISH OF THIS HORRIBLE HEAT!

WELL, WELL, WELL...!



HERMINUS, OLD THIEF, IT SEEMS YOU WERE RIGHT TO FOLLOW THOSE TWO CUBS!

ONE OF THEM'S LIKELY TO FIND THE SWORD OF ULTIMATE SORCERY YOU'VE BEEN SEEKING FOR SO LONG.

'TWILL THEN BE NO TRICK FOR A PROFESSIONAL THIEF LIKE YOURSELF TO WREST IT FROM THOSE AMATEURS.

BUT... WHICH TO FOLLOW?

WHAT SAY WE LET THE GODS DECIDE?



SOON AFTERWARD, UPON THE LEFTWARD PATH CHOSEN BY THE HEADSTRONG TORR...

TOO LATE NOW, THOUGH. MY WAY BACK IS ALREADY BLOCKED BY FIRE AND LAVA.

SO HOT--AND GETTING HOTTER EVERY MINUTE!  
CAN'T SEE FAR ENOUGH AHEAD TO KNOW IF I TOOK THE RIGHT PATH OR NOT!

GOT TO KEEP GOING-- FIND THE SWORD, AND THEN TARRA, BEFORE--

OH, MENTORS-- WHERE ARE YOU, NOW THAT I REALLY NEED YOU ??

WHY DID I GET SO PUSHY WITH TARRA, ANYWAY?

WE SHOULD'VE STUCK TOGETHER, NOT SEPARATED.

GODS! NOW THE FLAMES ARE SHOOTING UP BEFORE ME, AS WELL!

WAIT! I JUST REMEMBERED --THE ZODIACAL TALISMAN THAT WE RECEIVED ALONG WITH OUR BLADES!

YOU ARE CORRECT, TORR.

MENTARRA IS EVEN NOW APPEARING TO YOUR WANDERING SISTER--

--BUT MENTOR MAY BE OF SMALL SERVICE TO YOU.

WE KEPT THEM WHEN WE JUMPED, AND PERHAPS--

I HAD NO IDEA I COULD SUMMON YOU-- ONCE I REACHED FIREWORLD!

ONCE AND ONCE  
ONLY IN EACH OF  
THE FOUR WORLDS  
OF THE ELEMENTS  
CAN YOU CALL UPON  
US, LAD.

THIS IS  
THAT TIME.  
SPEAK!

C-CAN YOU  
TAKE ME TO  
THE SWORD--  
OR TO TARRA?

AH, NOW AT LEAST  
YOU HAVE ASKED  
THE PROPER  
QUESTION--WHICH  
ALONE IS HALF  
THE STRUGGLE  
TO FINDING THE  
ANSWER.

I SHALL  
SHOW YOU  
WHAT YOU  
ASK, TORR--

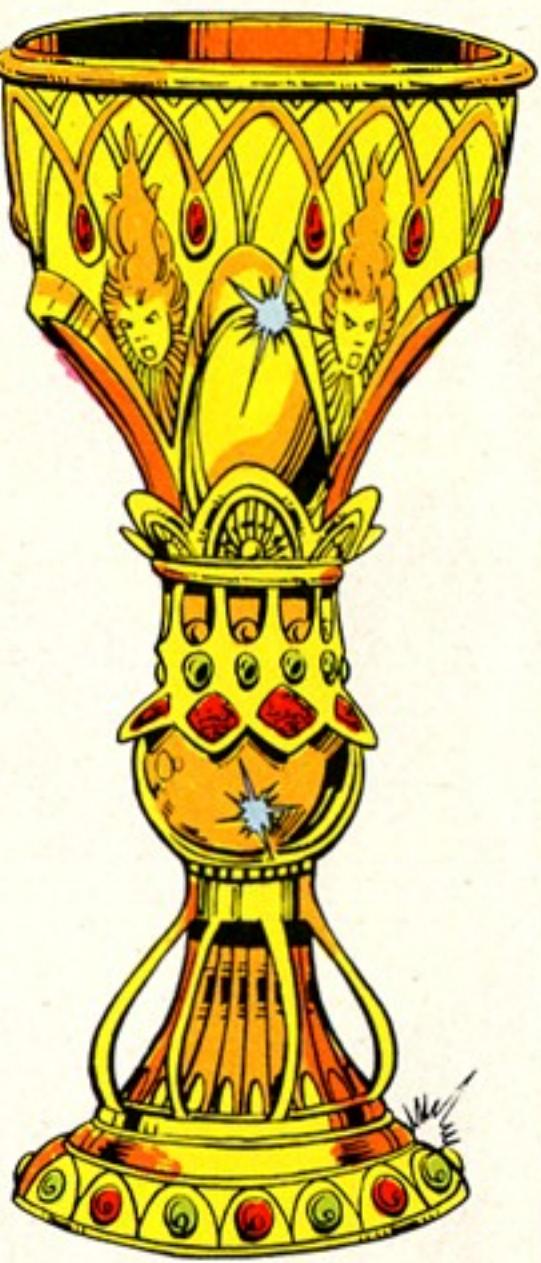
--AYE,  
AND SO  
VERY MUCH  
MORE--

--IN THE  
CHALICE OF  
LIGHT!



THAT IS A  
WAY YOU MUST  
FIND FOR YOUR-  
SELF, ALAS.

THEN SHOW ME  
SOMETHING COOL TO  
QUENCH MY THIRST,  
I BEG OF YOU...  
BEFORE I PERISH!



IT- IT'S  
TRULY A THING  
OF BEAUTY,  
MENTOR!

BUT WHERE IS IT?  
HOW CAN I REACH IT AND  
QUENCH MY THIRST--SO I  
CAN STAY ALIVE LONG  
ENOUGH TO FIND TARRA  
AND THE SWORD?

YOU WILL FIND IT WHEN YOU BECOME THE  
**MIGHTIEST WARRIOR** IN THIS  
WORLD--AND NOT BEFORE.

YET, IF AND WHEN YOU DRINK  
OF THE CHALICE OF LIGHT, NOT ONLY  
SHALL YOU KNOW NO MORE THIRST  
IN THIS FIERY PLACE--

--BUT YOU WILL  
BE IMMUNE TO HER  
FLAMES, AND THUS  
WILL CONQUER!

NOW, I MUST DEPART...!

HOLD IT!  
DON'T GO! I'M  
NOT THROUGH  
WITH--

BLAST! I SHOULD'VE KNOWN  
--NOBODY KEEPS MENTOR  
AROUND WHEN HE DECIDES  
IT'S TIME TO GO.

JUST SEEING THAT CHALICE  
GAVE ME STRENGTH--AND HOPE.

I'LL FIND IT--AND I'LL  
BECOME THE GREAT  
WARRIOR MENTOR  
SAID I MUST BE--

--FOR THE SAKE  
OF THE REVENGE  
WE SEEK--AND  
FOR TARRA!

MEANWHILE, HIS SISTER HAS  
LIKewise COMMUNICATED WITH  
THE FEMININE WRAITH  
MENTARRA, AND NOW--

THIS IS ONE  
TIME I WAS  
JUST AS  
STUPIDLY  
STUBBORN AS  
TORR.

CAN'T GO THAT WAY  
--BUT MAYBE I'LL FIND  
RESPITE FROM THE HEAT  
IN THIS CAVE.

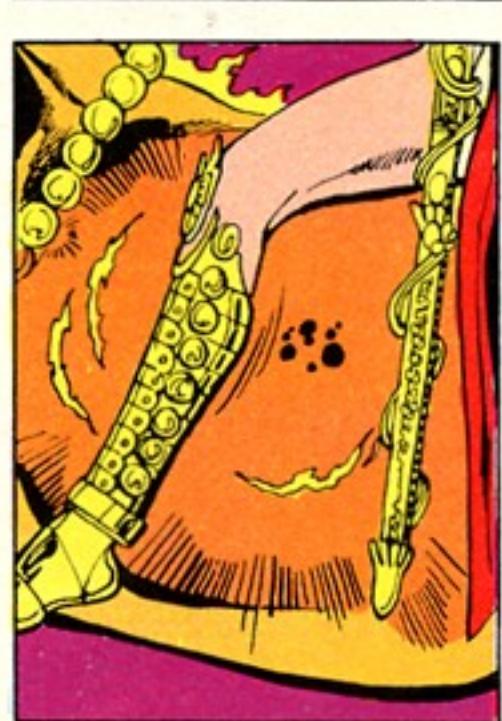
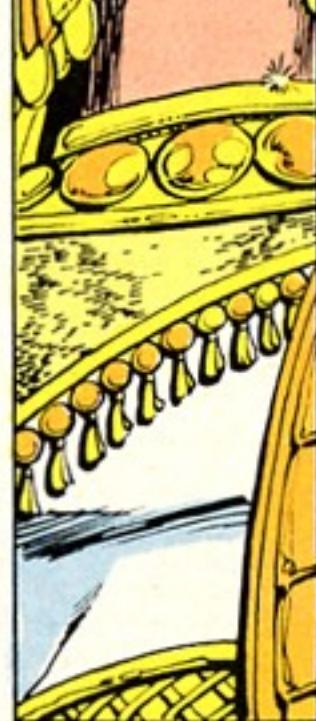
I LET THE  
STIFLING HEAT  
IN THIS PLACE  
WARP MY  
JUDGMENT.

WH-WHAT--?

IT'S  
NOT REALLY  
A CAVE  
AT ALL--

--IT'S A  
**TREASURE  
CHAMBER!**





IT'S  
ALIVE!!

NEXT MOMENT, IT SEEMS AS IF TREASURE CHAMBER, PROFUSELY-SCATTERED WEALTH, AYE, EVEN FIREWORLD ITSELF, HAVE ALL BUT VANISHED FROM TARRA'S FEVERED SIGHT--

--AS THE GLISTENING METALLIC STALLION BUCKS AND HEAVES, AS IF TO HURL ITS HUMAN RIDER TO A FIERY DEATH, A MILLION MILES BELOW AND AWAY!

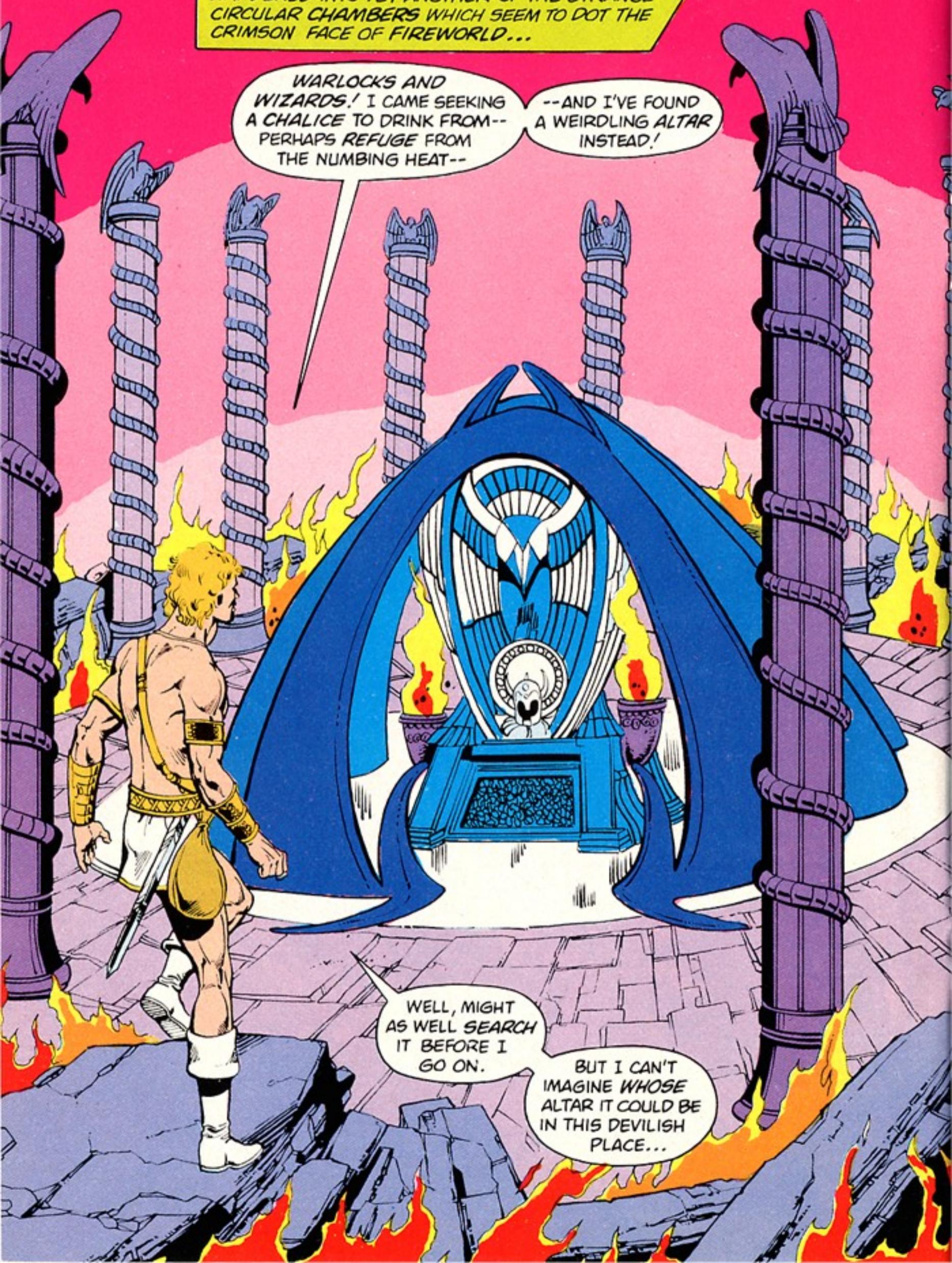
AND TARRA HANGS ON--  
FOR LIFE, FOR VENGEANCE--

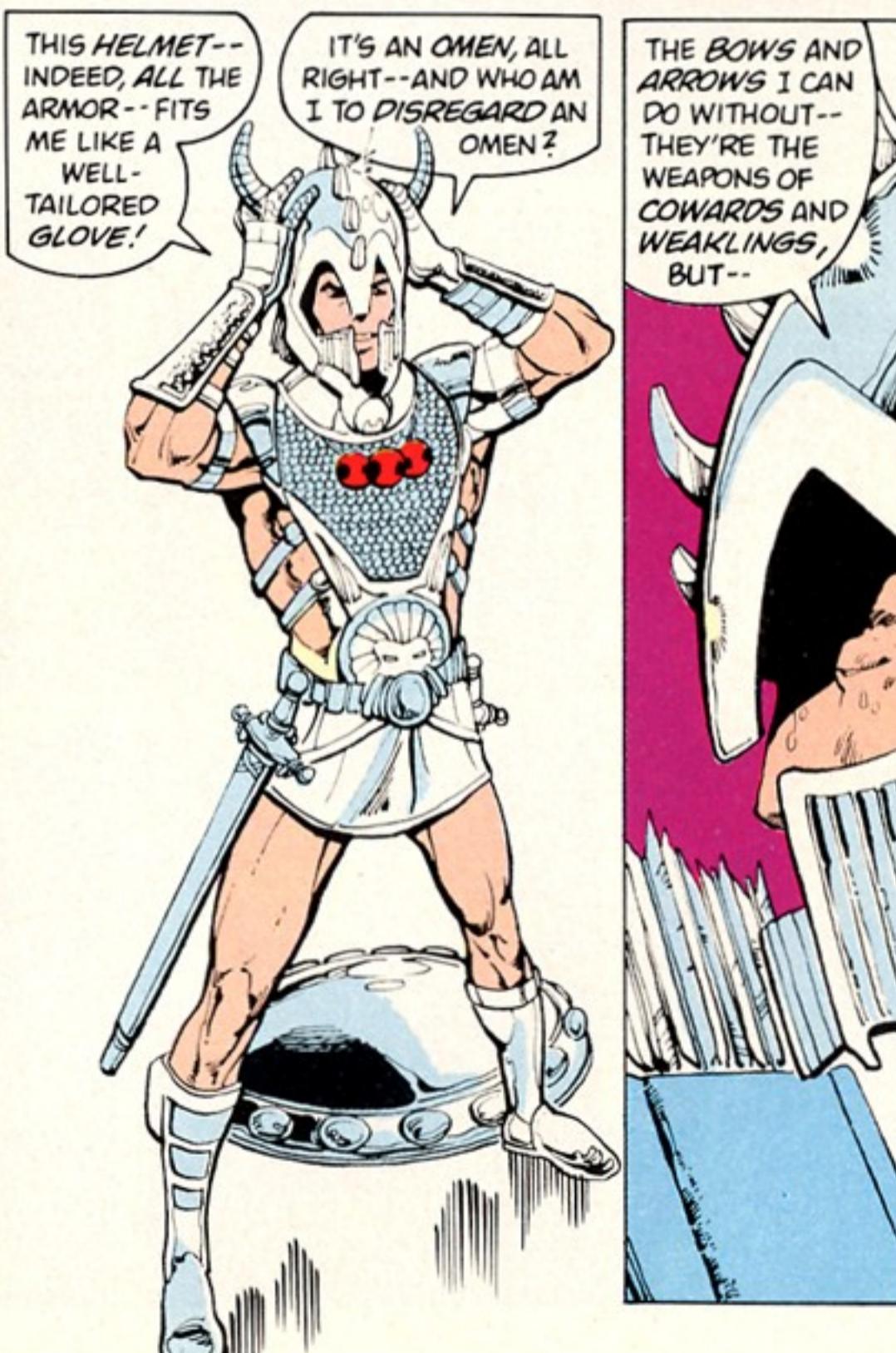
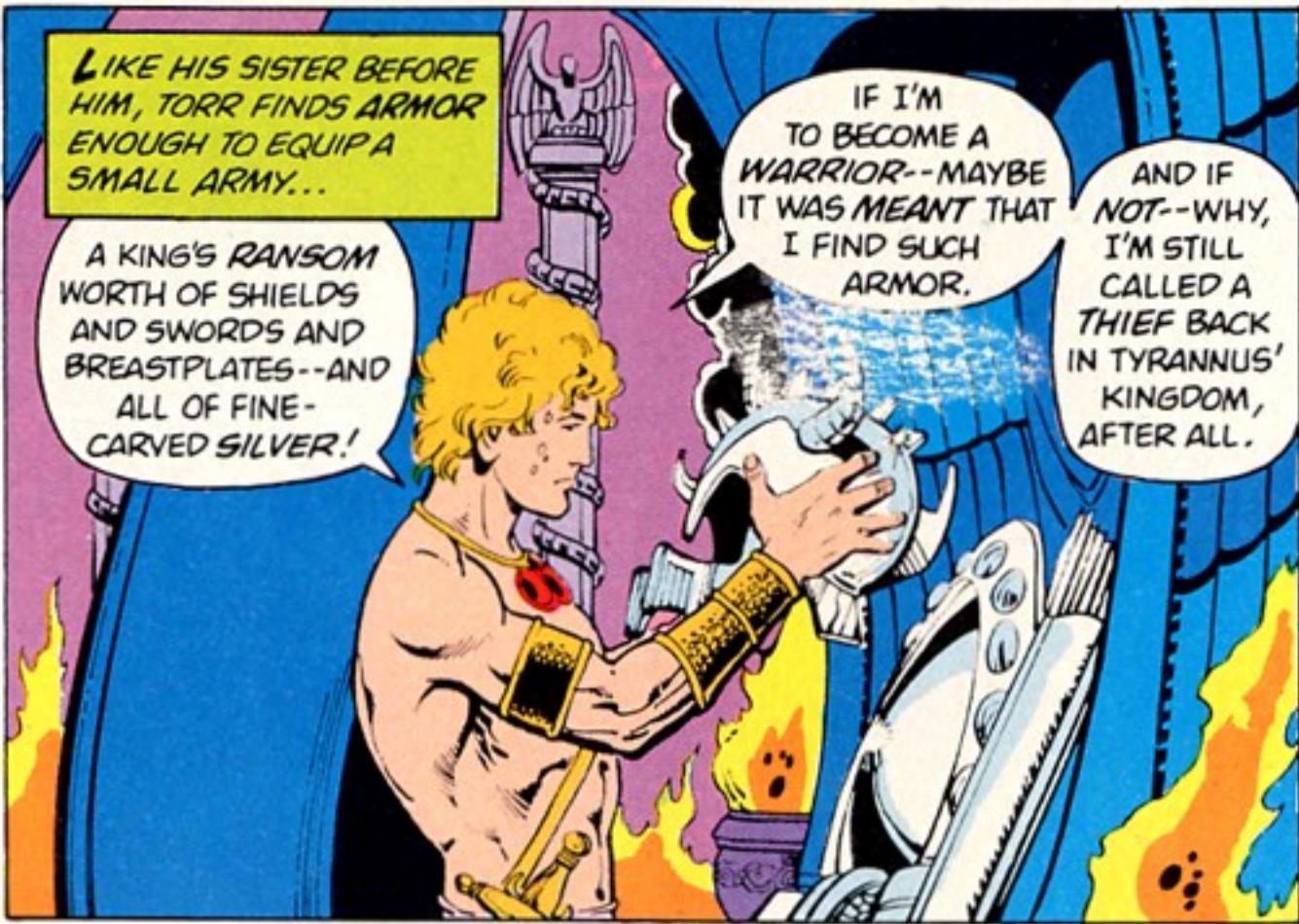
--AND PERHAPS MOST OF ALL, FOR THE SAKE OF HER BROTHER TORR!

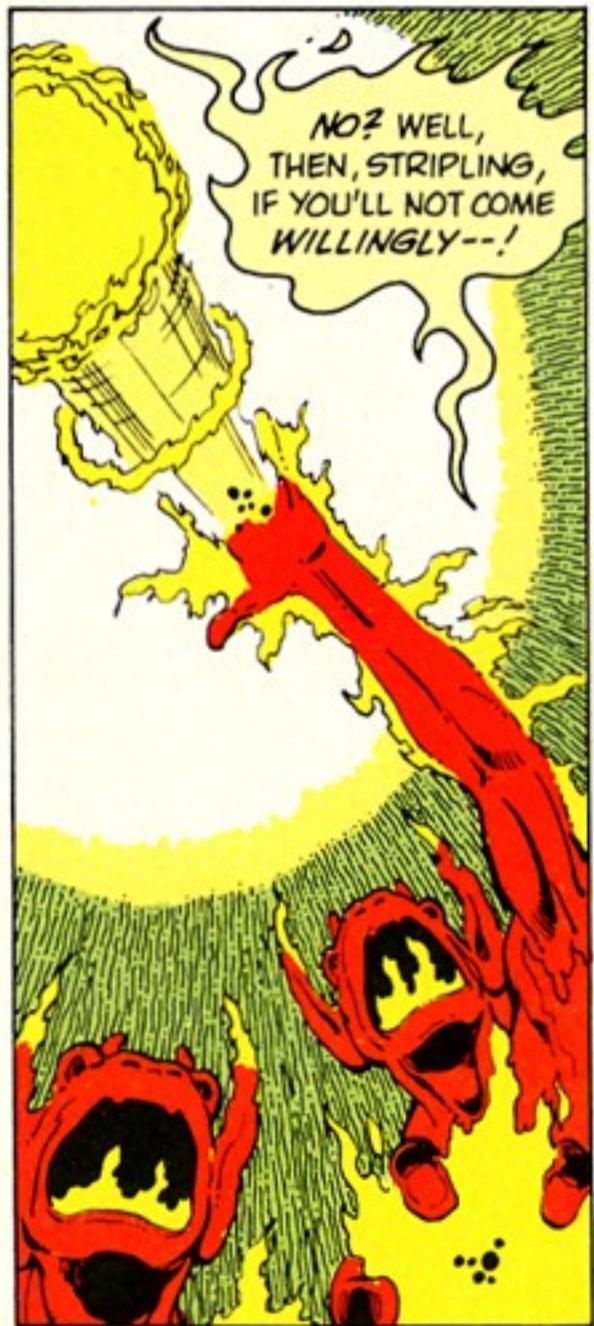
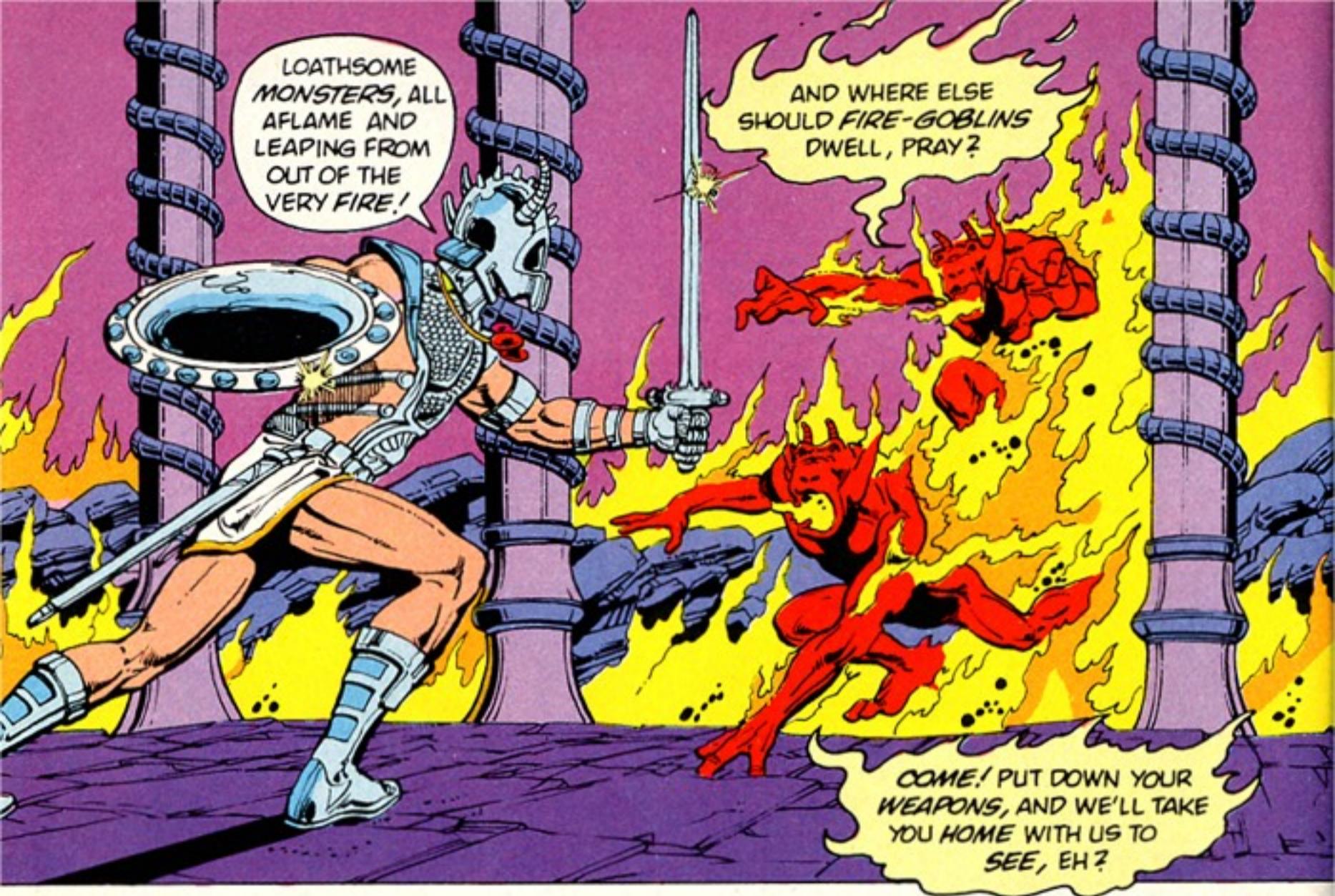
MEANWHILE, USING THE WORDS OF MENTORR AS THE FOUNDATION OF HIS ACTIONS, TORR HIMSELF HAS WANDERED INTO YET ANOTHER OF THE STRANGE CIRCULAR CHAMBERS WHICH SEEM TO DOT THE CRIMSON FACE OF FIREWORLD...

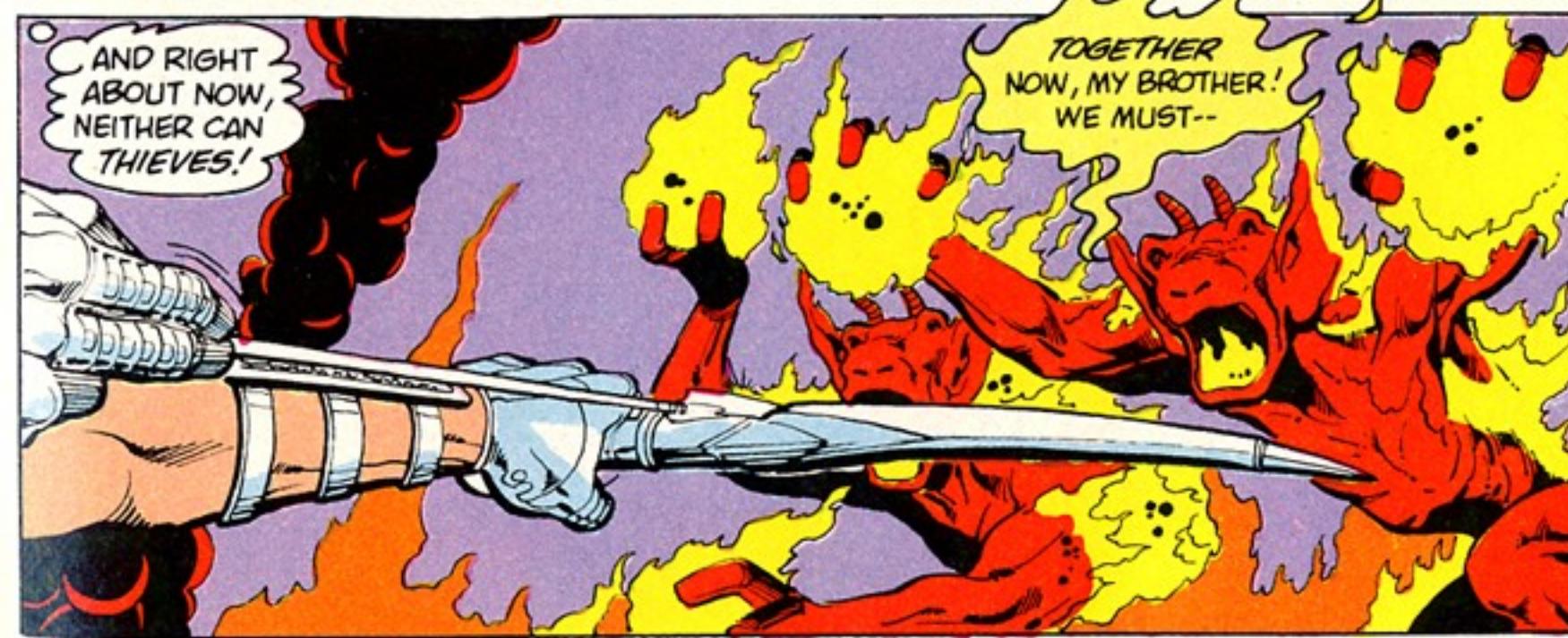
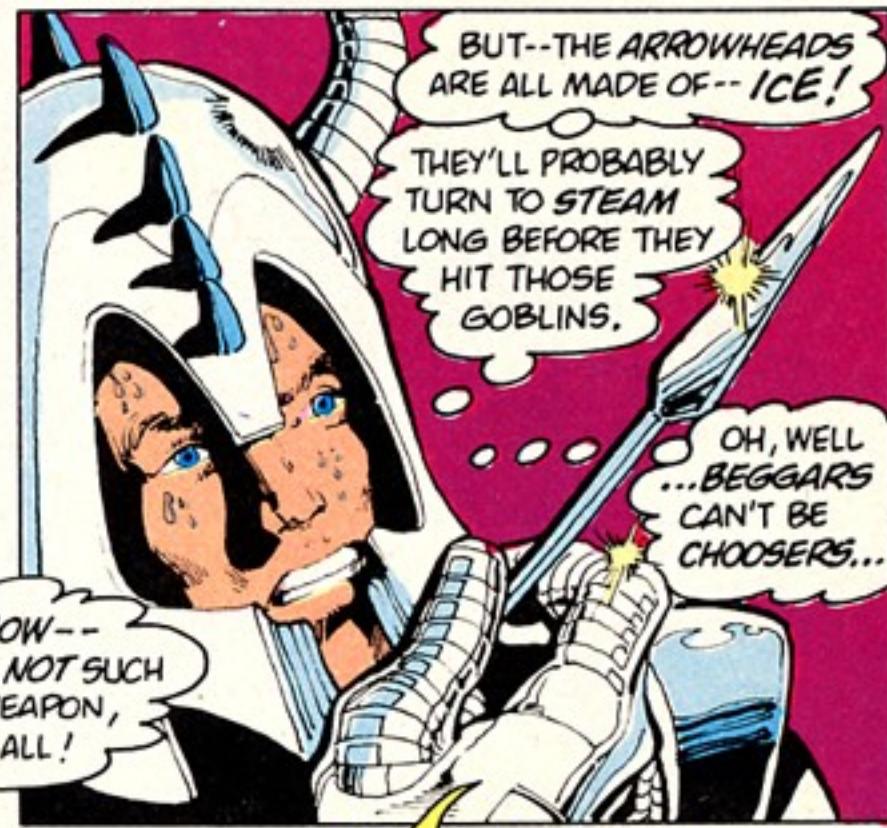
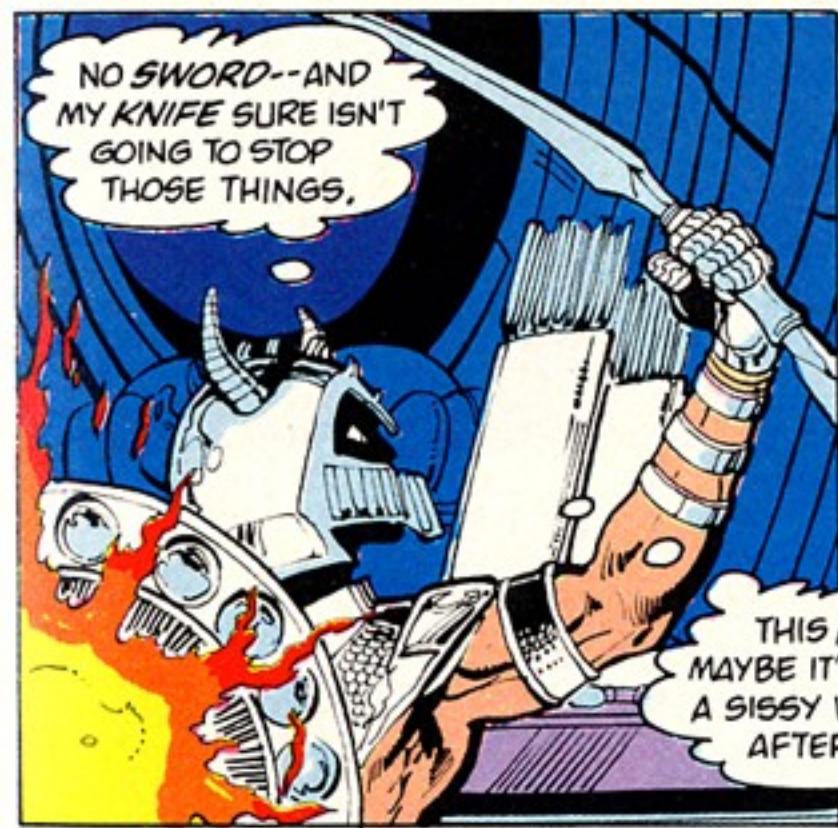
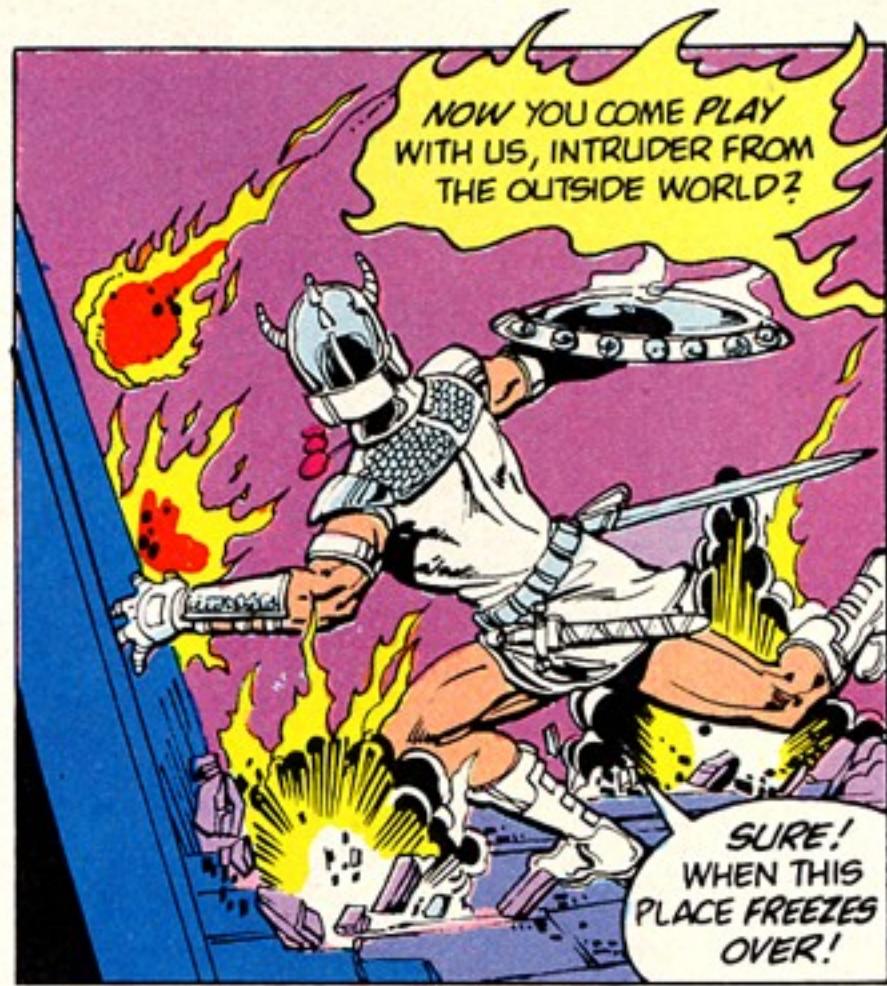
WARLOCKS AND WIZARDS! I CAME SEEKING A CHALICE TO DRINK FROM-- PERHAPS REFUGE FROM THE NUMBING HEAT--

--AND I'VE FOUND A WEIRDLING ALTAR INSTEAD!









THE FIRE-GOBLENS CRY IS CUT OFF IN MID-SHOUT, HOWEVER, AS--TO TORR'S GREAT SHOCK--THE ICE-ARROW STRIKES HOME--

AND WHEN CLOUDS OF STEAM AND SMOKE HAVE BLOWN AWAY--

WELL, WHAT DO YOU KNOW! HE'S FROZEN STIFF!

ALL RIGHT--YOU FUGITIVES FROM A FIREPLACE--COME AHEAD!

THE SNOW-SHOE'S ON THE OTHER FOOT NOW, ISN'T IT?



ELSEWHERE, A YOUTHFUL FIGURE WITH ARMOR TO MATCH HER GOLDEN TRESSES SITS ASTRIDE A GALLOPING UNICORN WITH MANE LIKE FIRE...

WELL, AT LEAST IT'S STOPPED TRYING TO TOSS ME INTO THE LAVA, THANK HELIOS FOR SMALL FAVORS!

IT EVEN RESPONDS TO MY COMMANDS ALREADY, AND--

WAIT!  
WHAT'S THAT??

IS IT JUST THAT OVERWHELMING HEAT GETTING TO ME--BAKING ME INSIDE THIS ARMOR--

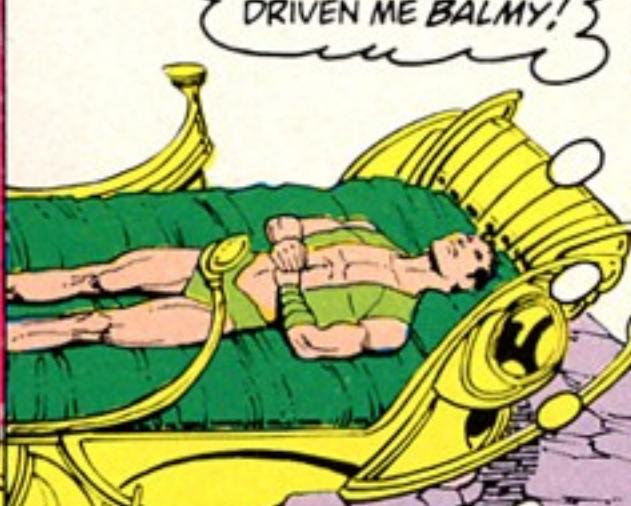
--OR IS THAT A MAN LYING THERE, UPON THAT BIER IN THE MIDDLE OF THIS LAKE OF LAVA?

AYE, THAT IT IS--  
UNLESS THE HEAT'S DRIVEN ME BALMY!

A HANDSOME LAD, TOO--FULL OF MANLY BEAUTY--A STRANGE SORT OF HARMONY ABOUT HIS FEATURES, SOMEHOW.

I FEEL--I'VE SEEN HIM BEFORE, SOMEWHERE--  
BUT THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE.

I...DON'T KNOW QUITE WHY...



NAY, WHY  
SHOULD I  
MIND--

--WHEN IT WAS I WHO  
PUT THE VERY IDEA INTO  
YOUR MIND??

BY THE GODS!



THE MAN  
I KISSED--  
HE'S TURNED  
INTO SOME  
KIND OF  
TENTACLED  
MONSTER--

--IF HE WAS  
EVER TRULY  
HUMAN AT  
ALL!

CAN'T-- GET FREE!  
CHOKING ME-- I CAN'T--

HOLD! WHAT'S  
THAT MOVEMENT  
OVER THERE--  
NEAR MY  
MOUNT?



I HOPE YOU WON'T  
OBJECT TO MY BOR-  
ROWING YOUR HORNED  
STEED, DEAR CHILD.

SOMEHOW, YOU DON'T  
LOOK AS IF YOU'LL BE  
NEEDING HIM AGAIN.



I'M SORRY  
TO DO THIS  
LASS--  
REALLY I  
AM.

BUT I SEEK  
THE SWORD OF  
ULTIMATE  
SORCERY, TOO,  
YOU KNOW!

THEN, THE  
MASTER  
THIEF IS  
GONE--

--AND TARRA HAS FAR  
MORE PRESSING CONCERN:

HERE'S WHERE I FIND OUT  
IF THIS FANCY SWORD I  
TRADED MY OLD ONE FOR  
IS GOOD FOR ANYTHING  
BESIDES  
SHOW!





AS, ON ANOTHER OF THE MYRIAD  
ROCK-BRIDGES WHICH FORM THE  
SOLE ROADWAYS OF FIREWORLD...

SO! I THOUGHT YOU TWO  
FIRE-GOBLENS HAD ALL GONE  
SKITTERING BACK INTO THE  
LAVA POOL.

TOO SCARED EVEN  
FOR THAT, HUH?

WELL, YOU'RE GOING  
TO WISH YOU'D TAKEN  
A SWAN DIVE INTO  
THE LAVA--

WHEN THIS ICE  
ARROW TURNS YOU  
BOTH INTO SO  
MUCH UGLY  
SCULPTURE!

PLEASE--  
D-DON'T HURT  
US, MASTER!

WE JUST  
W-WANTED  
TO PROTECT  
OUR L-LAND!

P- PLEASE--!

OH, THANK YOU,  
MASTER! WE--

NOW DON'T GET  
MAUDLIN ON ME,  
OR I'M LIABLE TO  
CHANGE MY  
MIND.

GET AWAY  
FROM THERE!  
YOU WANT TO  
SET MY BOOTS  
ON FIRE?

DON'T KNOW WHY I SHOWED  
YOU GUYS ANY MERCY--  
UNLESS IT'S BECAUSE  
I'M NOT USED TO  
WINNING FIGHTS.

IF YOU REALLY  
WANT TO SHOW  
ME SOME  
GRATITUDE--

--YOU CAN POINT  
ME TO MY SISTER  
TARRA--OR THE  
**CHALICE OF  
LIGHT**--

--OR JUST  
A PLAIN  
DRINK  
OF--

EH--?

BY THE GODS, THIS FEELS GOOD--AND COOL! IT'S NOT THE CHALICE OF LIGHT, BUT IT'LL DO.

JUST HOPE TARRA'S FOUND SOMEPLACE LIKE IT! IF ANYTHING'S HAPPENED TO HER--!

DO YOU ALWAYS TALK TO YOURSELF THIS WAY, BOY?

YOU!?

I KNOW YOU! YOU'RE THAT THIEF CALLED HERMINUS!

YOU TRIED TO GET MY SISTER AND ME KILLED--BACK IN EARTHWORLD.

GET DOWN OFF THAT FANCY HORSE, AND I'LL--

AFTER ALL, IN CASE YOU DIDN'T KNOW, I'VE BEEN SEEKING THE SWORD OF ULTIMATE SORCERY A LOT LONGER THAN YOU TWO HAVE.

AND, THOUGH I'LL ADMIT I WOULDN'T MIND QUENCHING MY CONSIDERABLE THIRST AT THAT FOUNTAIN--

MAYBE YOU GUYS ARE MY GOOD-LUCK CHARM AFTER ALL, AND--

NOW WHERE'D THEY GO? OH WELL, LIVE AND LET LIVE, I ALWAYS SAY.

I'VE REALLY NO TIME, BOY.

--BUT I DON'T THINK I'LL SETTLE TILL  
I FIND THE SAME CHALICE YOU'RE  
LOOKING FOR!

WAIT! HOW'D YOU  
LATCH ONTO--A UNICORN  
THAT FLIES?

WE MASTER THIEVES  
DON'T DIVULGE OUR  
SECRETS TO RANK  
AMATEURS, BOY.

FARE YOU  
WELL!

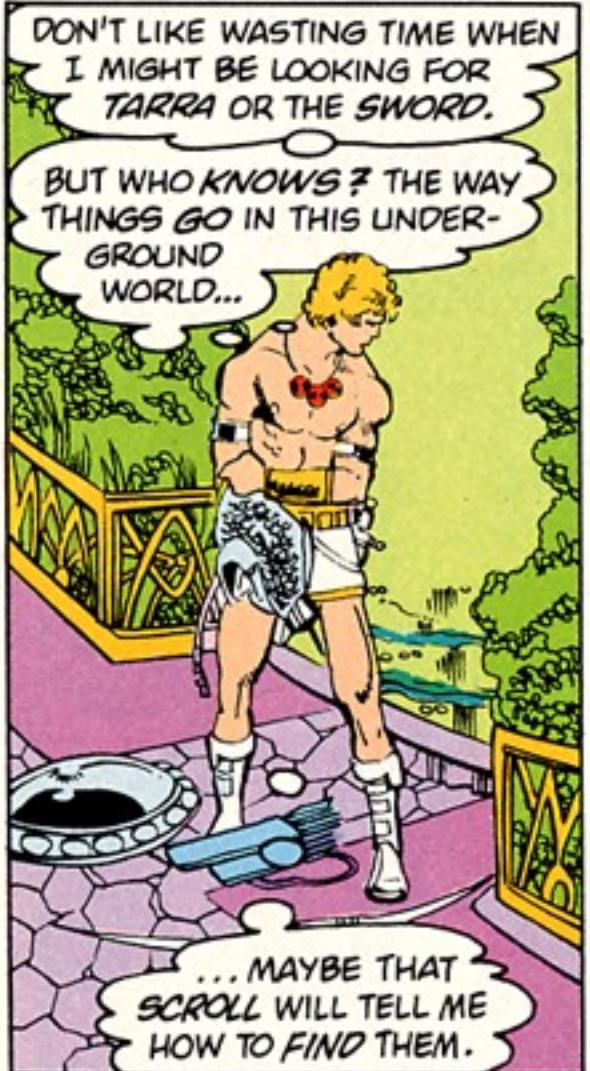
THAT GUY'D STEAL THE  
COINS OFF A DEAD MAN'S  
EYES!

NICE-LOOKING  
UNICORN, THOUGH.  
WISH I HAD--



DON'T LIKE WASTING TIME WHEN  
I MIGHT BE LOOKING FOR  
TARRA OR THE SWORD.

BUT WHO KNOWS? THE WAY  
THINGS GO IN THIS UNDER-  
GROUND WORLD...



OH NO!

SOME KIND OF  
**GIGANTIC REPTILE**  
--IT MUST'VE BEEN LYING  
IN WAIT BENEATH THE  
FOUNTAIN FLOOR!

IT'S GOT MY  
LEG--PULLING  
ME DOWN--!

**GLOMP!**



IN THE MEAN-TIME, TORR'S GOLD-HAIRED TWIN HAS RETRIEVED A SECOND OUT-FITTING FROM THE CHAMBER OF SPLENDOR, AND...

SPEAK OF THE DEVIL!

THERE'S A FULL SUIT OF ARMOR-- HANGING ON THAT BLAZING TREE--

--AND IT LOOKS AS IF IT WOULD FIT ME PERFECTLY!

NO! WHAT IN THE NAME OF THIS TERRIBLE HEAT AM I THINKING OF?

NOW I GET IT! THIS PLACE JUST THROWS ONE TEMPTATION AFTER ANOTHER AT YOU-- LIKE THE "SLEEPING PRINCE" BEFORE, AND NOW THIS--

THINGS SHOULD GO A BIT MORE SMOOTHLY FROM HERE ON.

MAYBE I COULD JUST--

--TAKING IMAGES FROM MY MIND, AND USING THEM TO DISARM ME!

THIS TIME, I CHOOSE MY WEAPONS FOR STURDINESS, NOT SHEEN.

TOO BAD THERE WASN'T A SECOND SUIT OF ARMOR LYING AROUND, BUT-- BY THE GODS!

I'D TAKE OFF THIS BIT OF ARMOR, AND THEN BE TOTALLY UNPROTECTED IF--

OWWWWW

THAT BLAST OF HEAT! WH-WHERE'D IT COME FROM??

**SKRAAHHH**

I HAD  
TO ASK!?



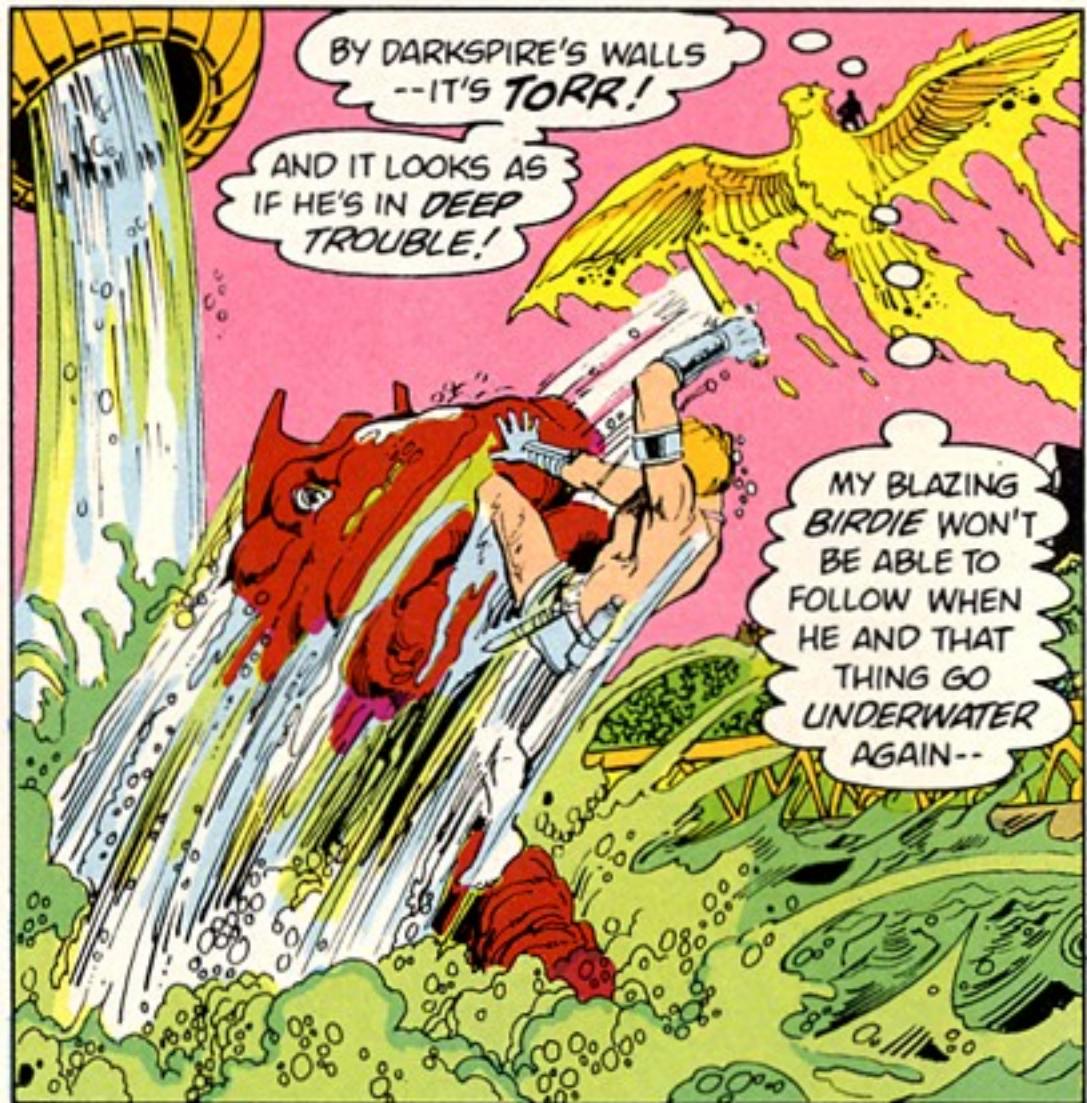
THIS PLACE  
NEVER GIVES UP,  
DOES IT?

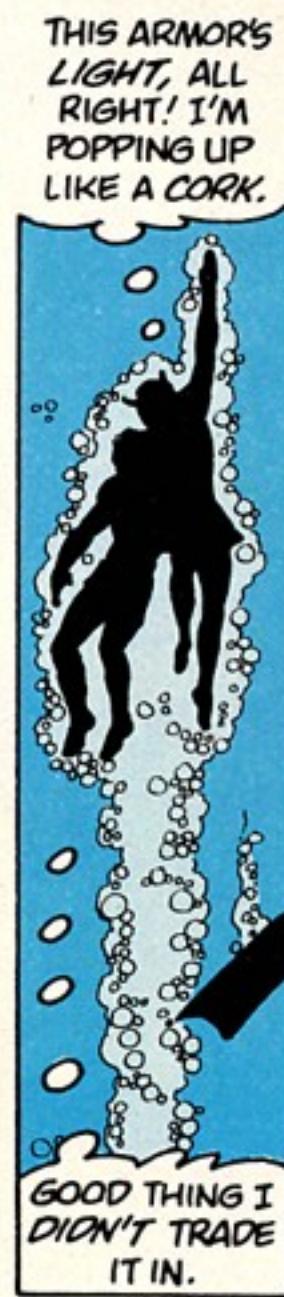
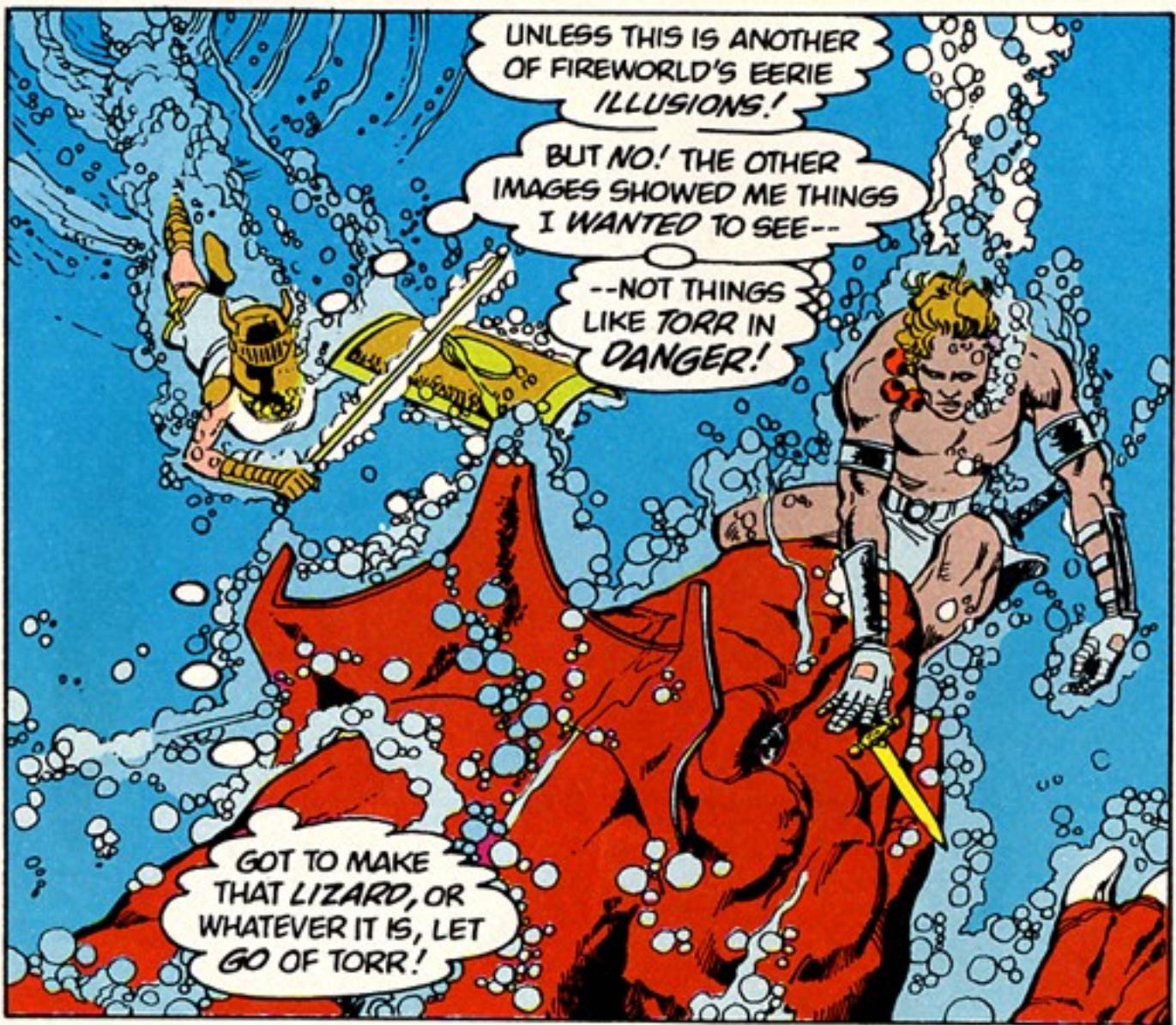
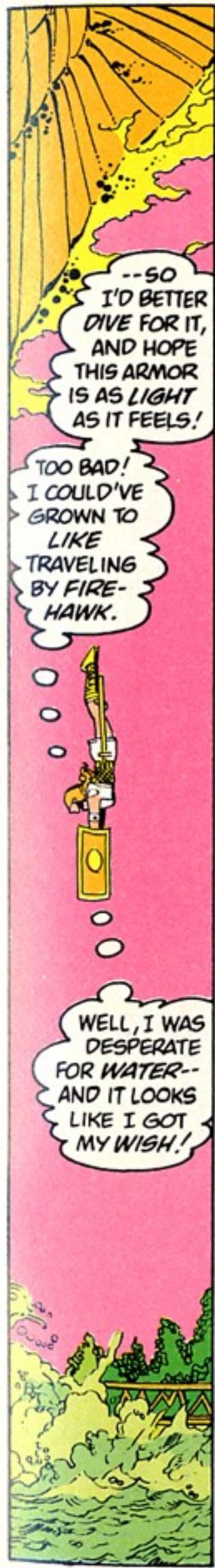
UNICORNS--  
HYPNOTIC  
OCTOPOIDS--  
AND NOW THIS  
FIRE-HAWK!

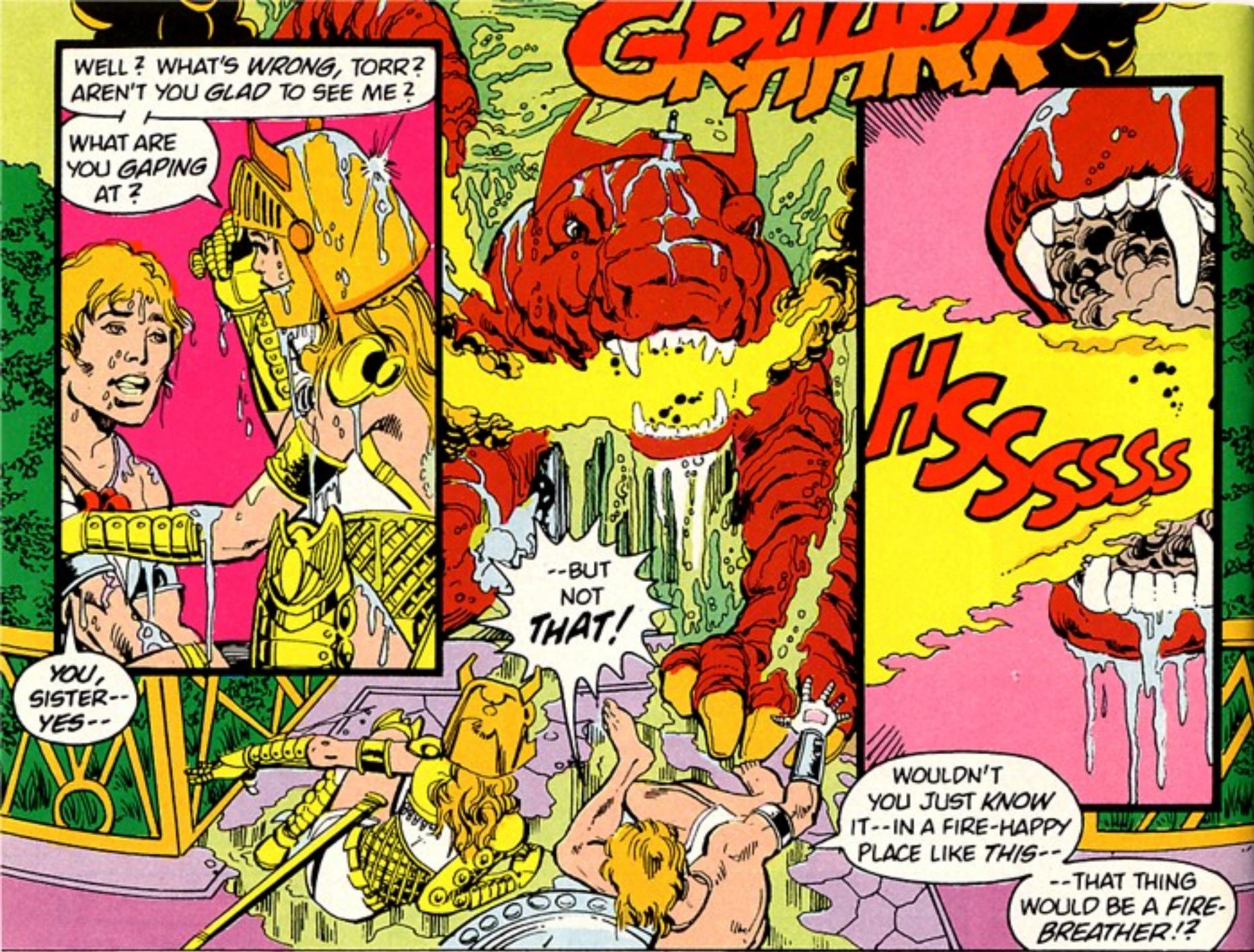
WELL, AT LEAST  
THIS ARMOR'S  
PROTECTING ME  
BETTER THAN THE  
OTHER DID--

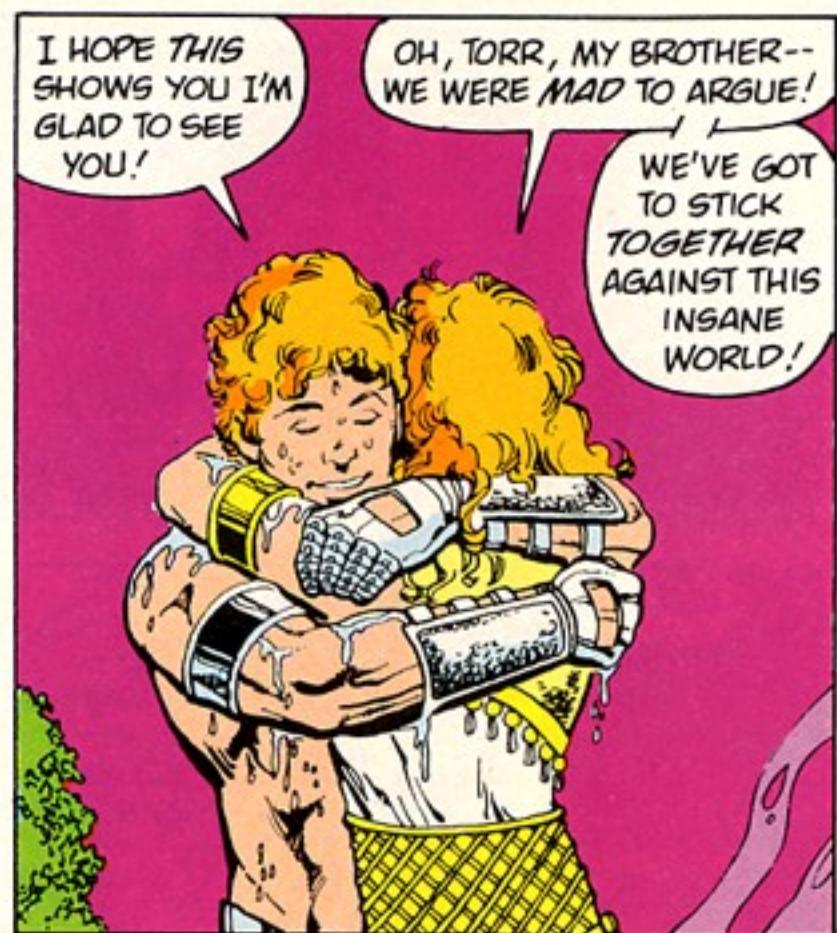
--BUT THAT LAST  
PASS BY THE HAWK--  
LEFT ME SO FAINT--  
FROM IT'S SHEER,  
UNRELENTING HEAT!

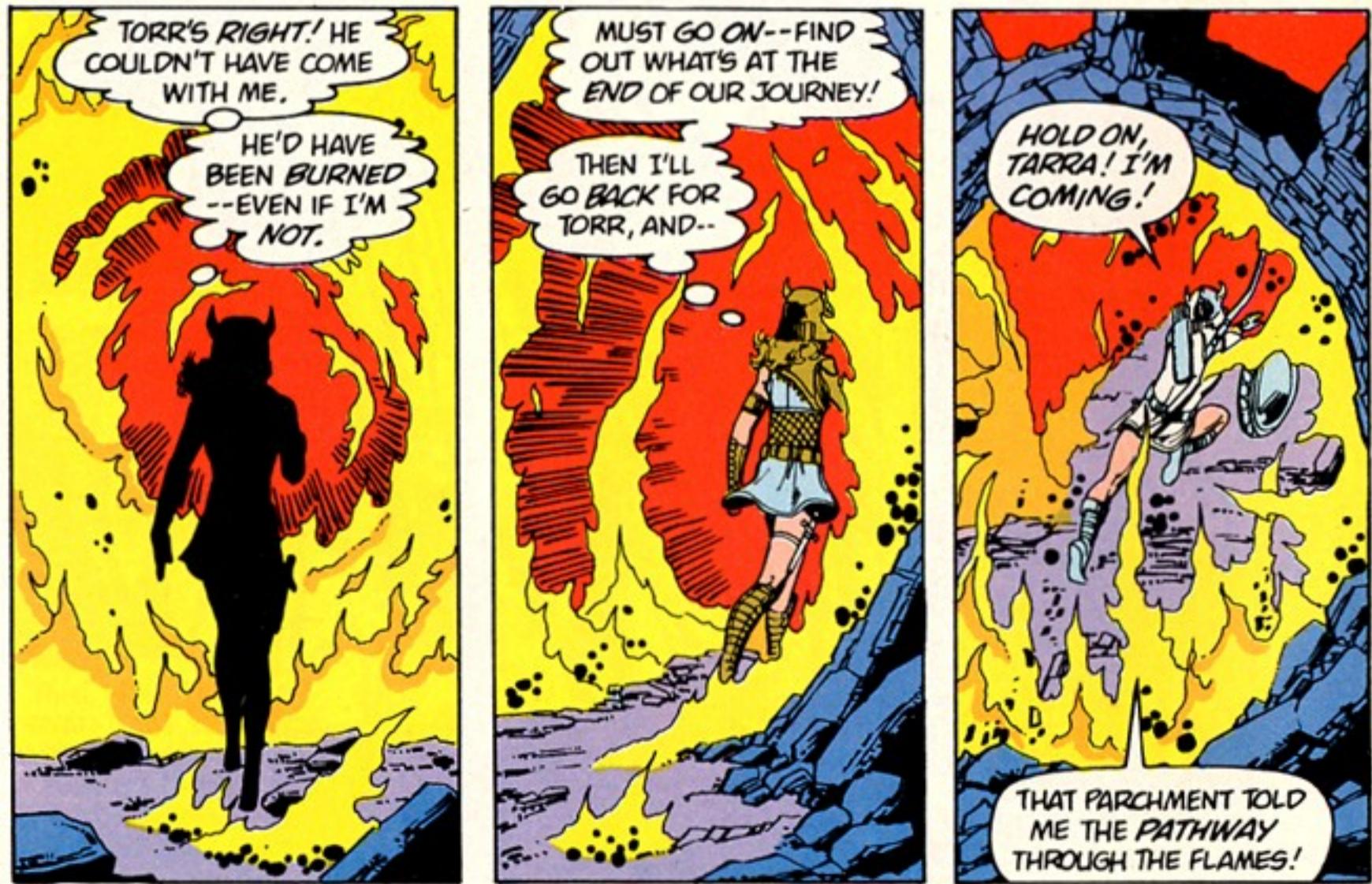
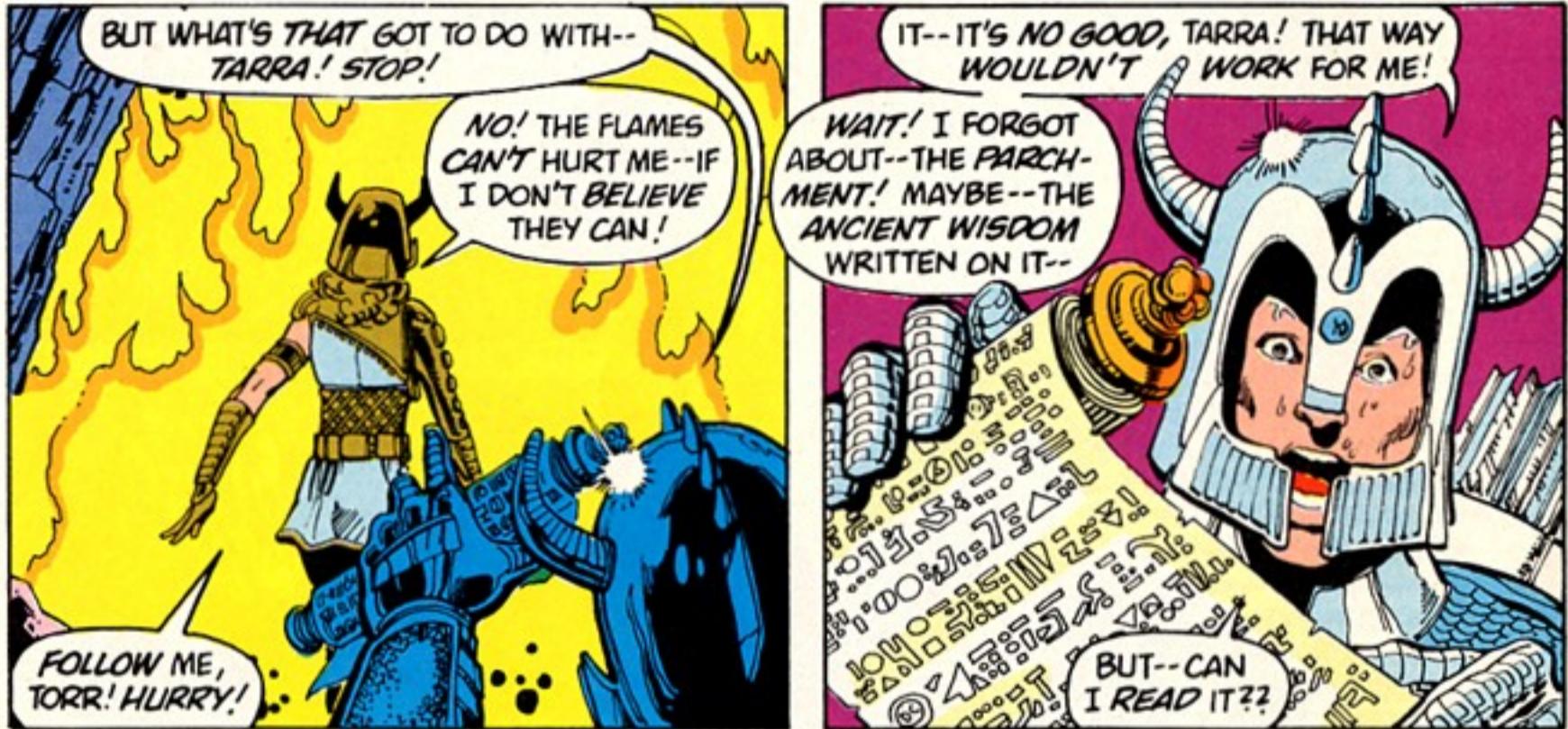
ANOTHER  
ONE LIKE IT--  
AND I'M  
DONE FOR--











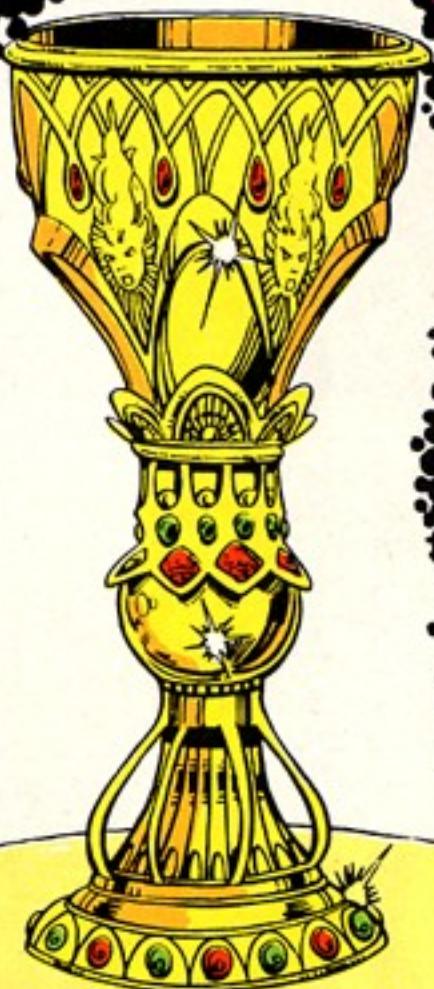
SOMEHOW, THE  
WATER I SWALLOWED  
BACK AT THAT WEIRD  
FOUNTAIN GAVE ME  
THE WISDOM TO--

HUH???

DON'T TELL  
ME--LET ME  
GUESS--!

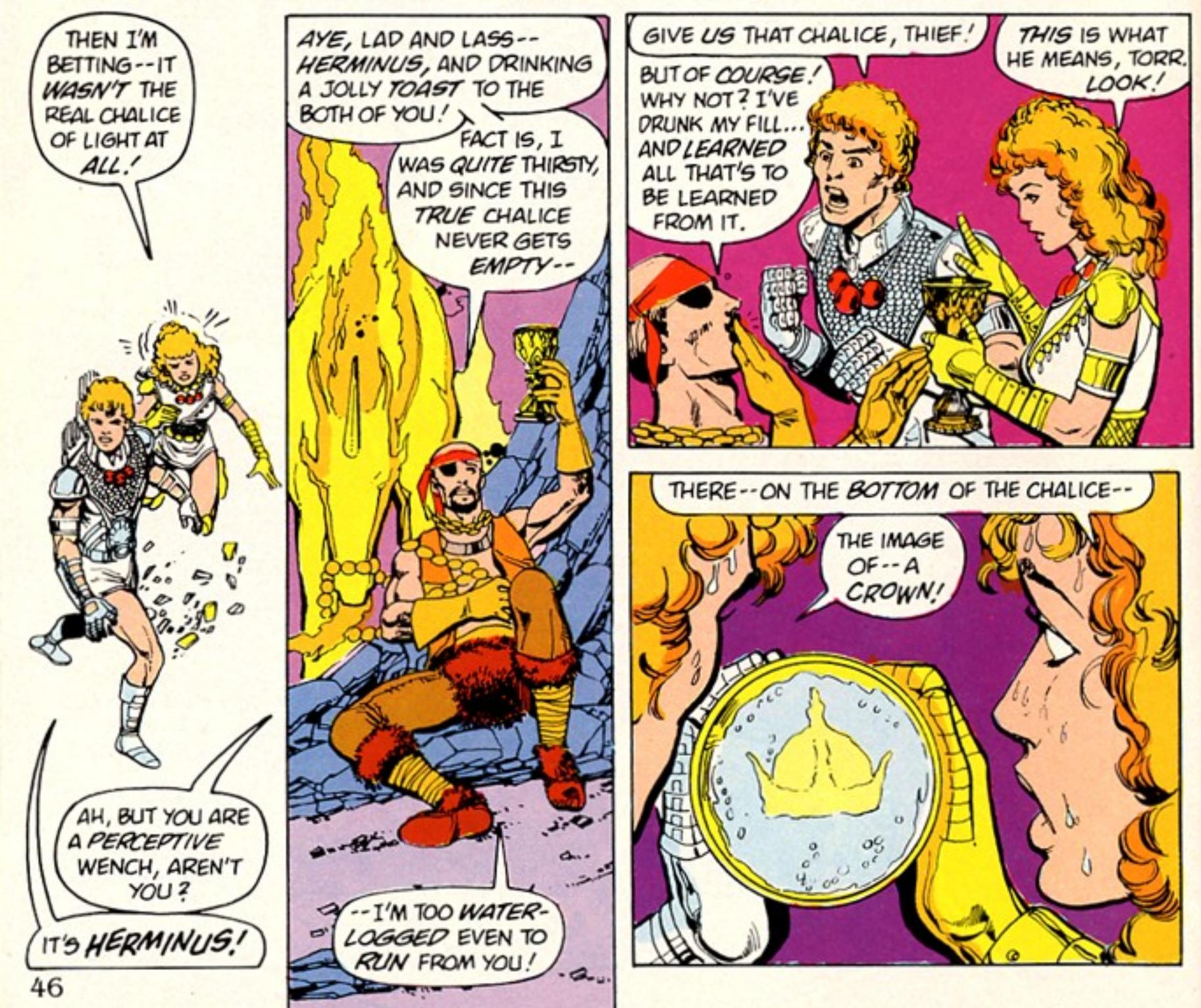
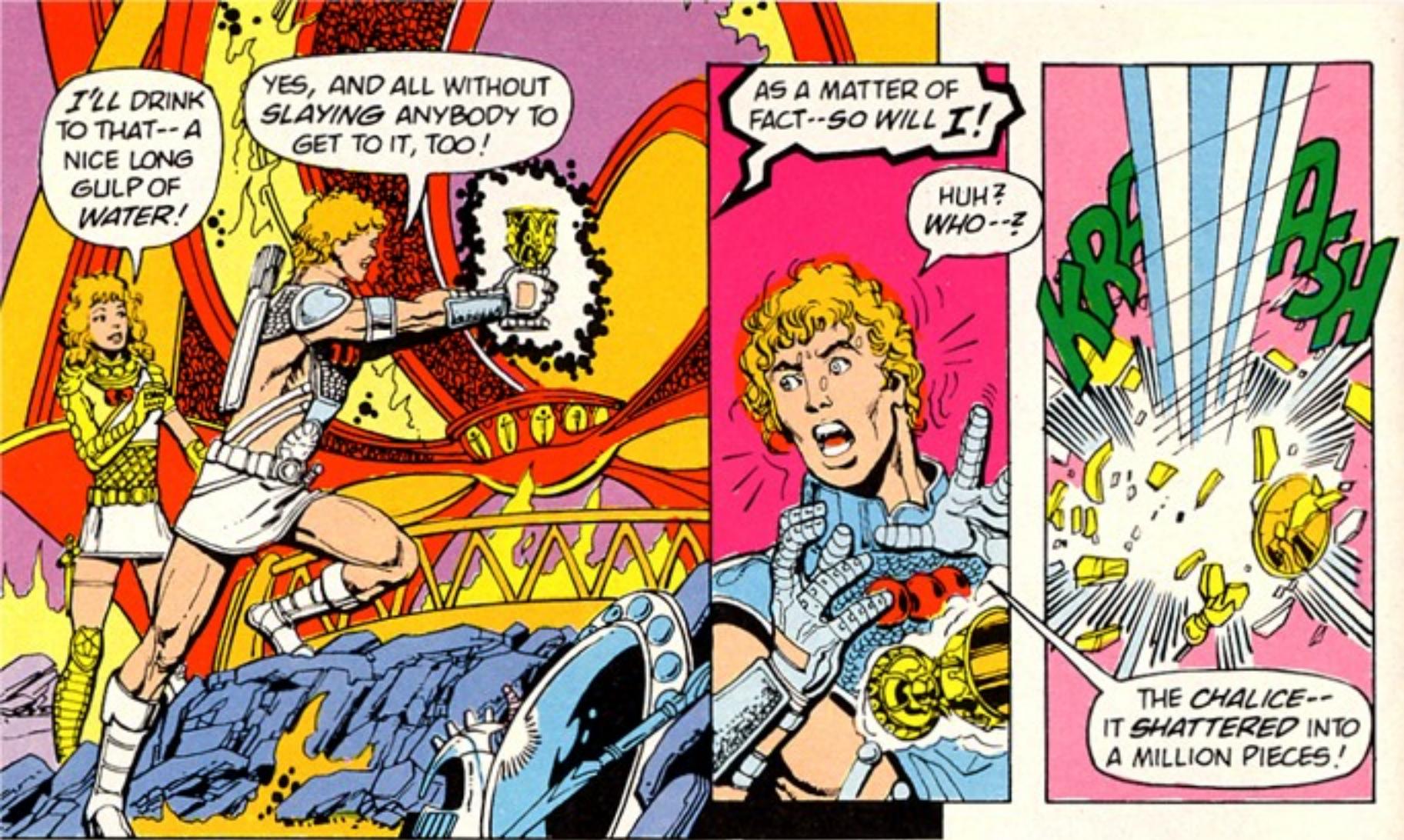
THE  
CHALICE OF  
LIGHT!

JUST THINK,  
TORR--ONCE WE  
DRINK FROM IT, WE  
WON'T FEEL THE  
HEAT ANY MORE--  
WE WON'T FEEL  
ANY THIRST!



WE'LL HAVE  
CONQUERED  
FIREWORLD,  
JUST AS WE DID  
EARTHWORLD--

--AND BECOME  
THE WARRIORS  
OUR MENTORS  
TOLD US WE  
COULD BE!



THAT IT IS, MY  
HEARTIES! A CROWN  
THAT WAITS FOR ME--  
IN THE THIRD WORLD  
WHERE HIDES THE  
SWORD OF ULTIMATE  
SORCERY!

HE'S GETTING  
AWAY--ON THAT WEIRD  
UNICORN!



AFTER ALL, WE'VE GOT  
THE CHALICE, RIGHT?

AND IF WHAT HAPPENED  
IN EARTHWORLD WAS ANY  
CLUE, IT SHOULD BE THE  
KEY TO OUR NEXT  
DESTINATION.

I GUESS SO...  
BUT I DON'T  
TRUST THAT  
HERMINUS!



WHY SHOULD YOU?  
HE'S A THIEF,  
ISN'T HE--JUST  
LIKE US!

NOT LIKE US!  
WE'RE WARRIOR  
S NOW,  
REMEMBER?



TARRA!  
SOMETHING'S  
HAPPENING--  
TO THE  
CHALICE!

IT'S  
GETTING  
BIGGER--  
RIGHT BE-  
FORE OUR  
EYES!

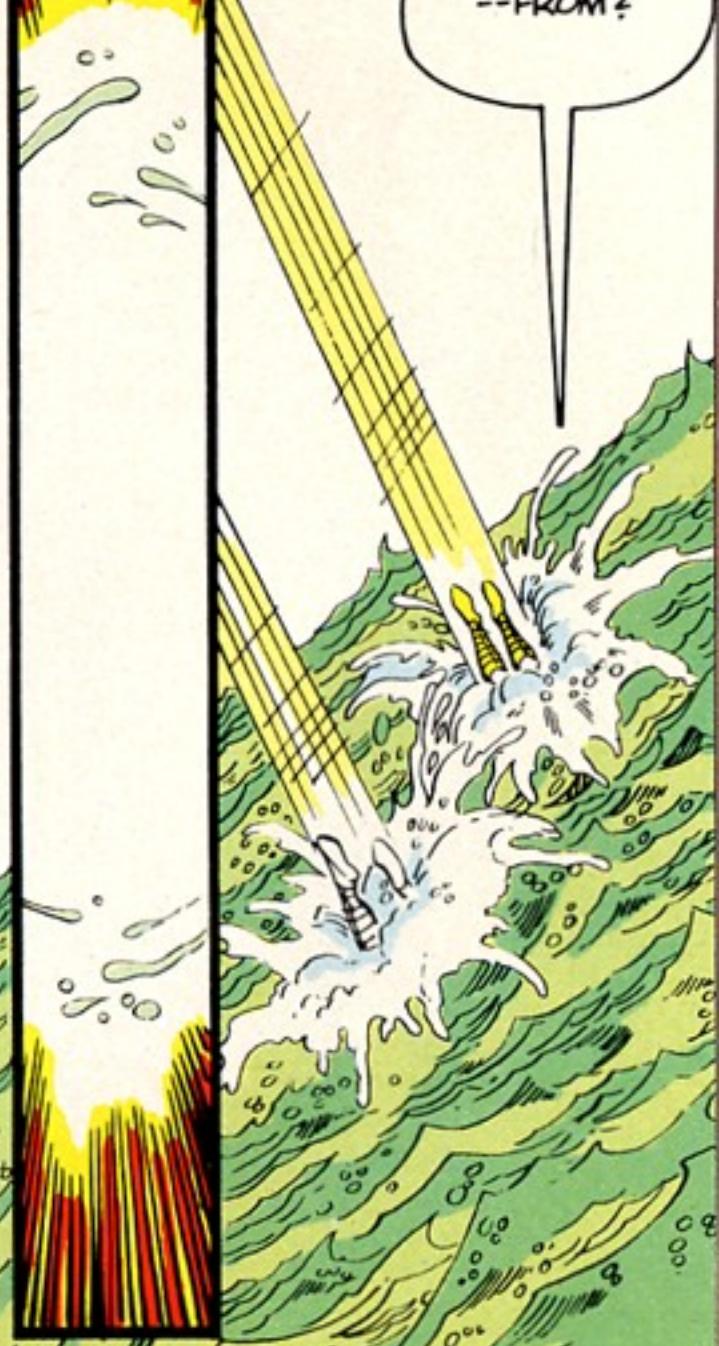


HUH?  
WHERE'D  
ALL THIS  
WATER--

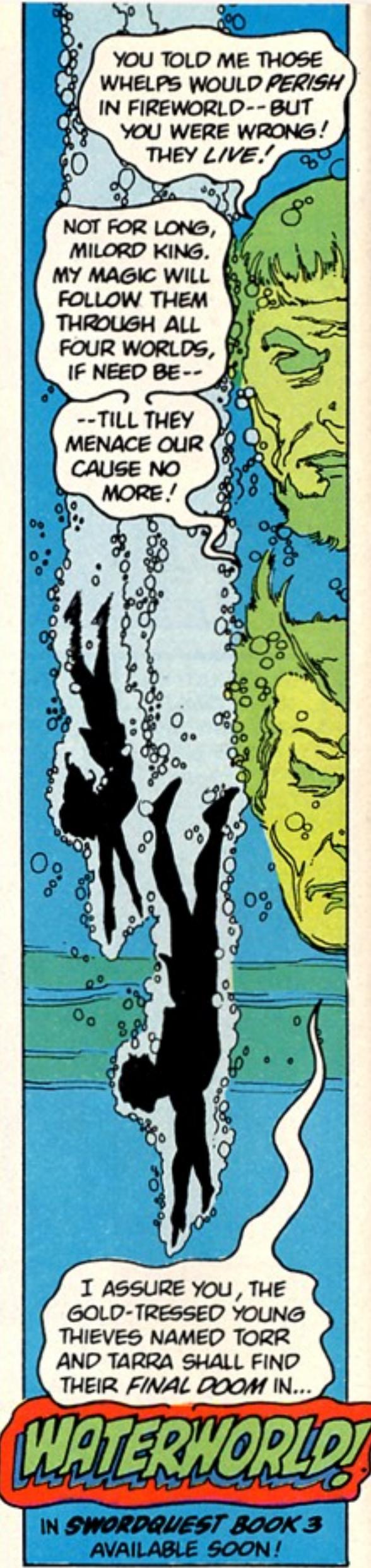


--COME--

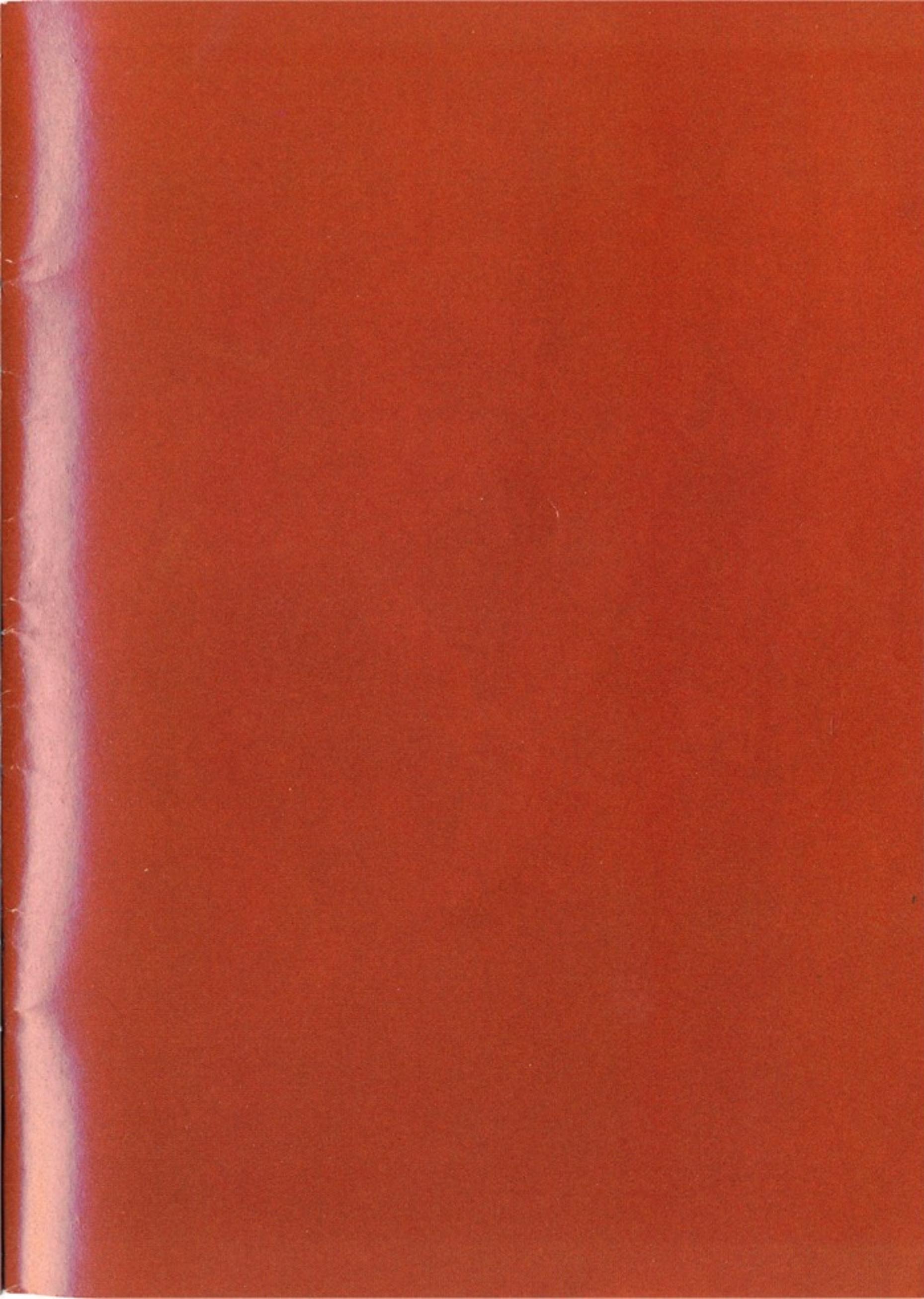
--FROM?



AND WE WANT  
THE SWORD TO  
DEFEAT TYRANNUS,  
NOT JUST BECAUSE  
IT'S VALUABLE!  
WE--



DID YOU MISS EARTHWORLD? HUSTLE DOWN TODAY TO YOUR FAVORITE ATARI CARTRIDGE DEALER AND GET SWORDQUEST #1: EARTHWORLD.





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