



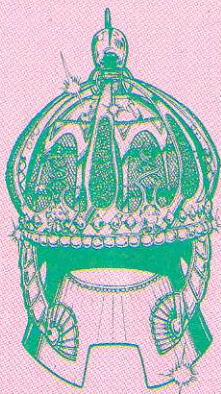
3

Swordquest



WATERWORLD™

POWERS
OF
PRIME



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BEHOLD THEM, YE
LOVERS OF DERRING-
DO...YE PURVEYORS
OF HIGH
ADVENTURE...

... BEHOLD THESE
GOLD-HAIRED
THINGS WHO BUT
AN INSTANT AGO
PLUNGED HEAD-
LONG INTO A
GLEAMING, MYSTIC
CHALICE WHOSE
FINDINGS HAD MADE
WARRIORS OF
THEM BOTH.

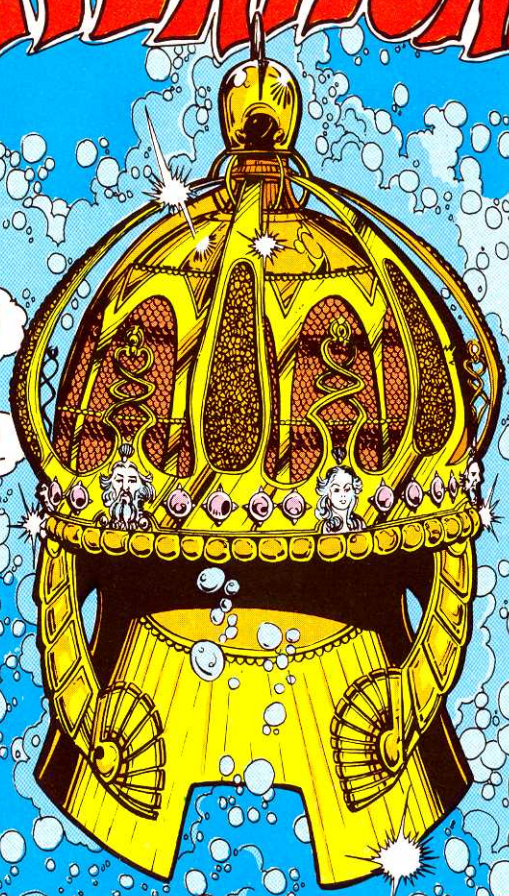
BEHOLD THEM NOW,
CARRIED DOWN,
DOWN INTO THE
UNCHARTED DEPTHS
OF A WORLD
UNDER WAVE.

I-- I CAN'T
BELIEVE MY
EYES!

IT'S JUST LIKE
THE IMAGE WE SAW--
IN THE BOTTOM OF
THE CHALICE--
BEFORE WE DIVED!

THEIR NAMES ARE TORR AND
TARRA, AND THEY HAVE JUST
ACCEPTED THE THIRD
CHALLENGE OF THEIR--

WATERWORLD



A CROWN--
AND IT'S NO
MIRAGE!

IT'S REAL--
AND IT'S
MAGNIFICENT!
IF WE CAN ONLY--

BUT, EVEN AS THE PLUMMETING SIBLINGS
RECOVER CONTROL OF THEIR LIMBS, AND
BEGIN TO ARC THEIR LITHE BODIES TOWARD
THE GLEAMING PRIZE--

--IT SHIMMERS BEYOND THEIR REACH WITH A FRUSTRATING--

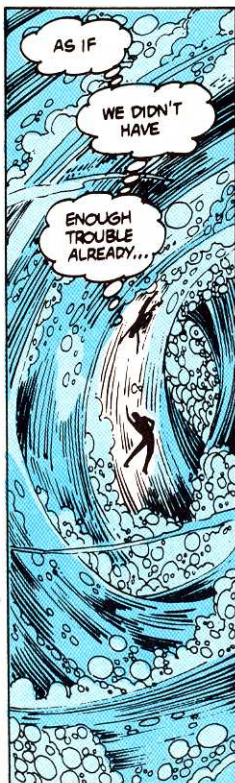
WE SHOULD'VE KNOWN!
WHATEVER THAT THING WAS-- I
GUESS IT /ISN'T FOR THE
LIKES OF A COUPLE OF
THIEVES-TURNED-
WARRIORS!

POPP!

EACH OF THE OTHER
TWO WORLDS WE'VE
ENCOUNTERED & HAD
A SPECIAL TALISMAN,
WHICH WOULD HELP
US IF WE GRASPED IT.

THE CROWN
MUST BE
WATERWORLD'S!

* EARTHWORLD AND FIREWORLD--
ALSO AVAILABLE ON ATARI CARTRIDGES.



BORN OF THE
MYSTIC CHALICE,
THE GARGANTUAN
SPOT CARRIES THE
YOUTHFUL, FATE-
TOSSED PAIR HIGH,
HIGH INTO THE
AIR--

-- ONLY TO DROP THEM AGAIN, SOME DISTANCE AWAY:

UGH!! LANDED AMID-- SOME
STRANGE KIND OF SEAWEED--
GETTING ALL TANGLED UP!

WONDER WHAT
KIND OF WORLD
THIS ONE'LL TURN
OUT TO BE--

-- IF WE EVER
STOP BEING TOSSED
AROUND LONG
ENOUGH TO TAKE
A LOOK AT IT!?

GOOD GIRL,
TARRA! FREE ALREADY--
FLOATING TOWARD
THE SURFACE-- AND
ANOTHER GULP OF
AIR!

MY ARMOR'S
LIGHT-
WEIGHT,
TOO, SO
I'LL JUST--

THEY'RE HOLDING
ME-- LIKE SOME
SORT OF NET!

MUH??

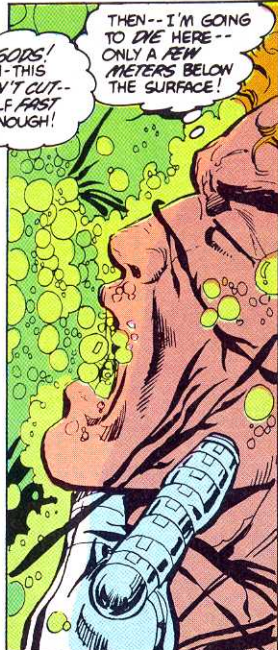
-- FAR ABOVE THE
ICE-FLECKED, WATER-
COVERED SURFACE
OF THIS EERIE NEW
WORLD THEY HAVE
NOT EVEN TIME TO
GLIMPSE--



NO USE! SHE DOESN'T EVEN SEE ME-- PROBABLY THINKS WE FELL LEAGUES APART!



--GORS! TH-THIS WON'T CUT-- HALF FAST ENOUGH!



THEN-- I'M GOING TO DIE HERE -- ONLY A FEW METERS BELOW THE SURFACE!



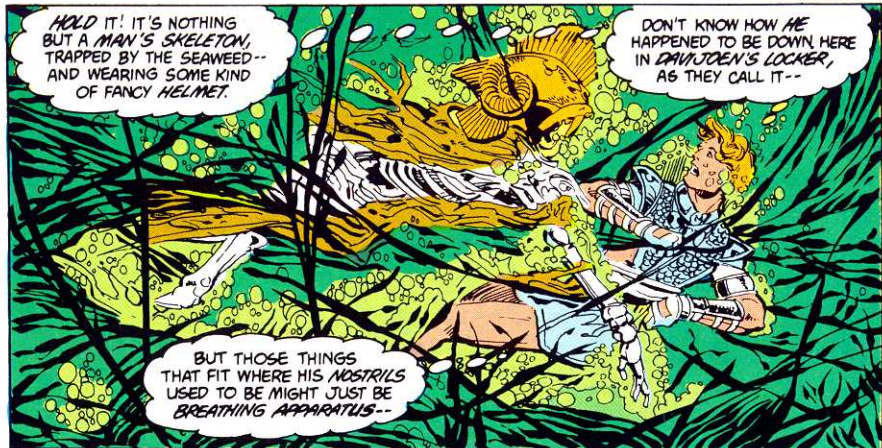
NO! I CAN'T-- I WON'T ACCEPT THAT! IF I DIE-- I DIE TRYING!

GOT TO KEEP HACKING AWAY AT THIS STUFF-- EVEN IF--



--EH? TARRA-- IS THAT--?

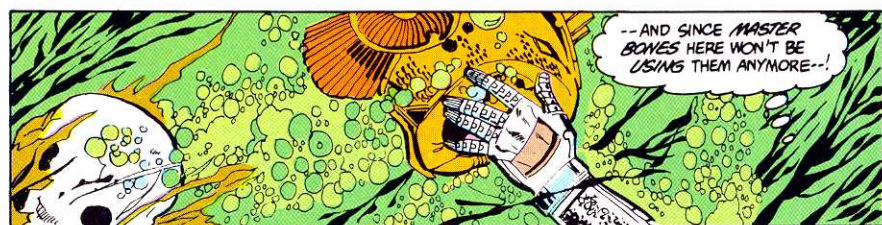




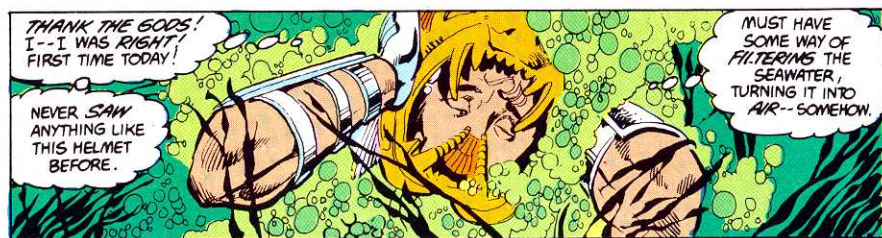
HOLD IT! IT'S NOTHING BUT A MAN'S SKELETON, TRAPPED BY THE SEAWEED-- AND WEARING SOME KIND OF FANCY HELMET.

DON'T KNOW HOW HE HAPPENED TO BE DOWN HERE IN DAVIDJEN'S LOCKER, AS THEY CALL IT--

BUT THOSE THINGS THAT FIT WHERE HIS NOSTRILS USED TO BE MIGHT JUST BE BREATHING APPARATUS--



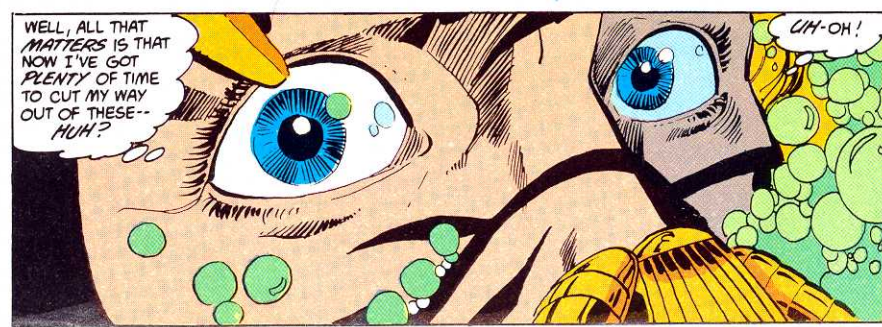
--AND SINCE MASTER BONES HERE WON'T BE USING THEM ANYMORE--!



THANK THE GODS! I--I WAS RIGHT! FIRST TIME TODAY!

NEVER SAW ANYTHING LIKE THIS HELMET BEFORE.

MUST HAVE SOME WAY OF FILTERING THE SEAWATER, TURNING IT INTO AIR-- SOMEHOW.



WELL, ALL THAT MATTERS IS THAT NOW I'VE GOT PLENTY OF TIME TO CUT MY WAY OUT OF THESE-- HUH?

UH-OH!

SOME DAYS
IT DOESN'T PAY
TO GET OUT OF
YOUR OWN
WORLD!



AS IF THESE
TENTACLES--
AREN'T HOLDING
ME TIGHT ENOUGH--

--I SURE DON'T
LIKE THE LOOKS OF
THOSE THINGS
COMING AT--



MY ARMOR--
PROTECTED ME-- JUST
BARELY! MAYBE--
CRACKED A RIB OR
THREE--

HONK!



--BUT SINCE MY MAIL
SHIRT'S-- NOW ABOUT
AS MUCH PROTECTION--
AS A SHIELD OF WET
PARCHMENT--

-- MIGHT AS WELL
GET RID OF IT--
AND USE THE EXTRA
SPEED I GAIN --



--TO STRIKE AT OLD SNAKY-LEGS--
FASTER THAN HE'D THINK I--

G-GOT HIM!
BUT--HIS GRIP--
SO TIGHT!

EVERYTHING--
GOING BLACK--!

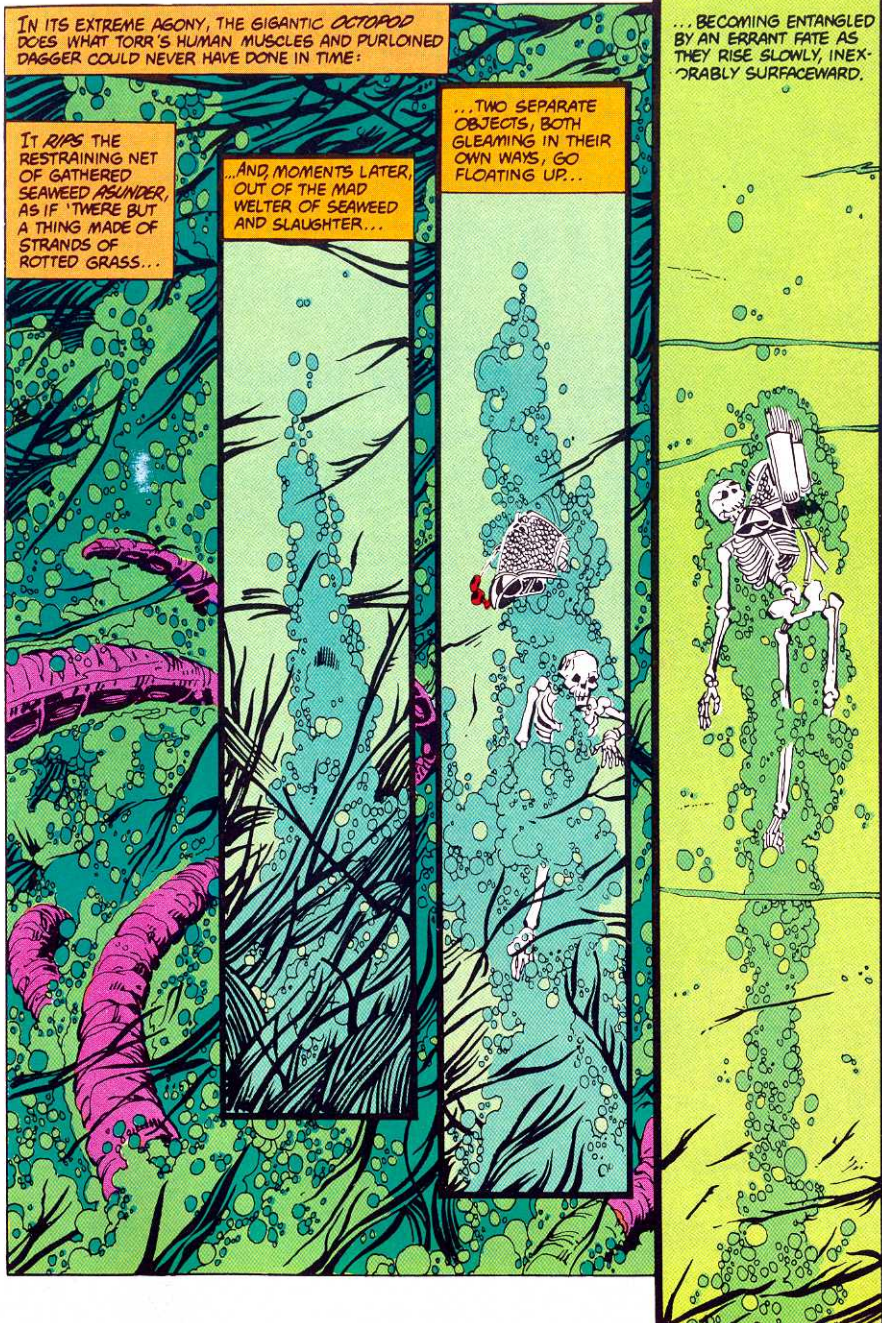
IN ITS EXTREME AGONY, THE GIGANTIC OCTOPOD DOES WHAT TORR'S HUMAN MUSCLES AND PURLOINED DAGGER COULD NEVER HAVE DONE IN TIME:

IT RIPS THE RESTRAINING NET OF GATHERED SEAWEEED ASUNDER, AS IF THERE BUT A THING MADE OF STRANDS OF ROTTED GRASS...

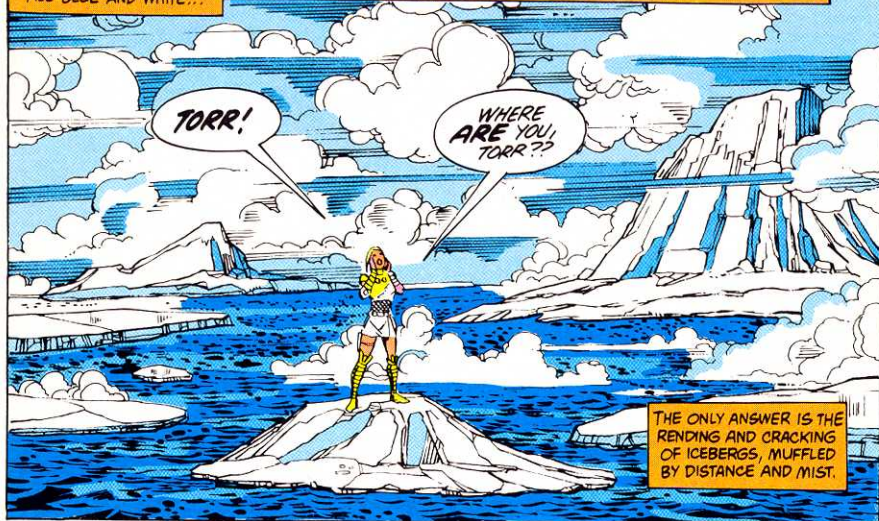
...AND MOMENTS LATER, OUT OF THE MAD WELTER OF SEAWEED AND SLAUGHTER...

...TWO SEPARATE OBJECTS, BOTH GLEAMING IN THEIR OWN WAYS, GO FLOATING UP...

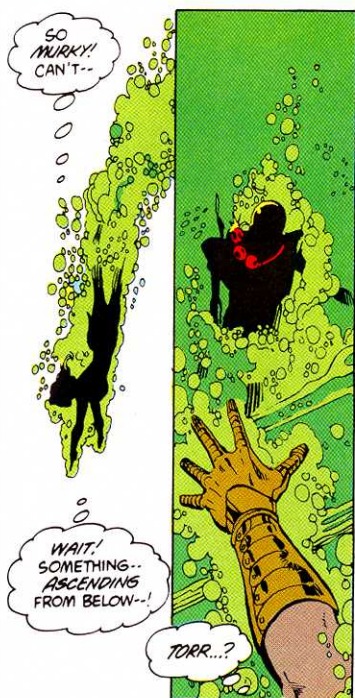
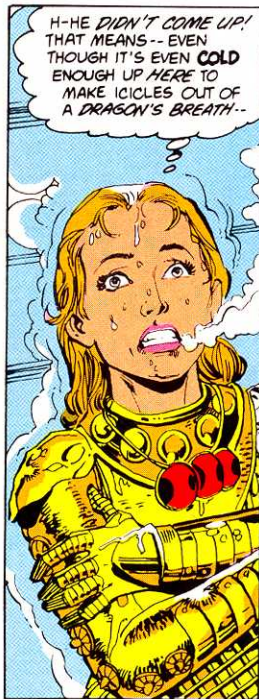
... BECOMING ENTANGLED BY AN ERRANT FATE AS THEY RISE SLOWLY, INEXORABLY SURFACEWARD.

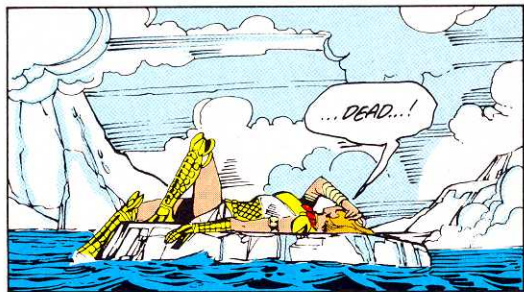
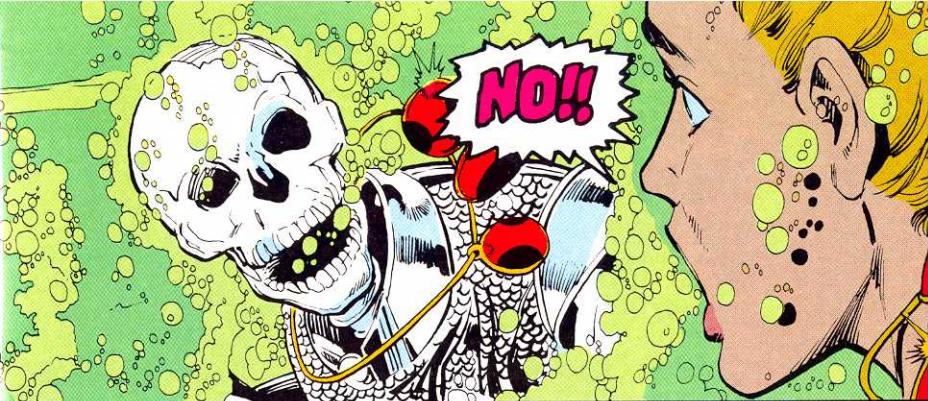


AS, ABOVE, WHERE ICY WINDS BLOW LIKE INVISIBLE MESSENGERS OF DEATH ACROSS A WORLD SEEMINGLY ALL BLUE AND WHITE...



THE ONLY ANSWER IS THE RENDING AND CRACKING OF ICEBERGS, MUFFLED BY DISTANCE AND MIST.





... SHALL HIS GOLD-TRESSED TWIN BE FAR BEHIND?

AH, MY KING! THE CHAMBER OF KONTJURO IS HONORED BY YOUR MOST GRACIOUS PRESENCE.

EVEN MY MAGIC CANNOT TOUCH THEM DIRECTLY FROM AFAR, O TYRANNUS.

SEEK NOT TO STALL ME WITH YOUR HONEYED WORDS, WIZARD!

WELL? HAVE YOU DONE AS I COMMANDED?

HAVE YOU FOUND A WAY TO DESTROY THOSE DANGEROUS WHELPS, ERE THEY FIND THE SWORD OF ULTIMATE SORCERY WHICH THEY SEEK?

OR DID I SLAY THEIR NOBLE PARENTS, YEARS AGO, ONLY TO BE OVERTHROWN BY THEM ONE DAY-- AS FORETOLD IN YOUR OWN PROPHECY?

FORGETFULNESS!? WILL YOU MAKE THEM FORGET THAT, WHEN FIRST WE LEARNED OF THEM, THEY WERE MERE THIEVES IN THE SHADOW OF MY CASTLE, DARKSPIRE--

BUT I CAN LAY THE HAND OF FORGETFULNESS UPON THEM-- WHILST THEY LIE IN THEIR CURRENT WEAKENED STATE.

-- AND NOW, THEY HAVE BECOME YOUTHFUL WARRIORS, INSTEAD?

MY SPELL CAN MAKE THEM FORGET FAR MORE THAN THAT, SIRE...

... EVEN IF THEY MANAGE TO SURVIVE THE ICY TORMENTS AND SMOTHERING WATERS THEY NOW ENDURE.

OBSERVE.

I BUT STIR MINE ENCHANTED CAULDRON WITH THE WAND OF WONDERMENT-- AND EVEN IF THEY LIVE--

THEY'LL FORGET NOT ONLY THEIR SWORDQUEST, BUT ALL THAT HAS TRANSPIRED IN THEIR YOUNG LIVES, UNTIL THIS MOMENT!...

"OBSERVE, KING TYRANNUS, AS THE MEMORIES ARE WASHED AWAY IN THE WATERS OF OBLIVION:

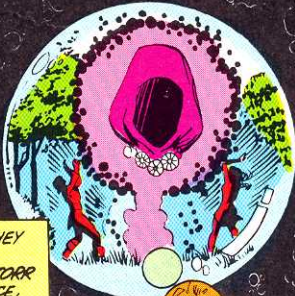
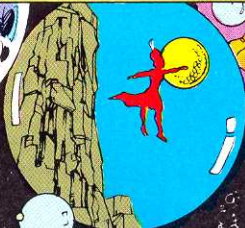
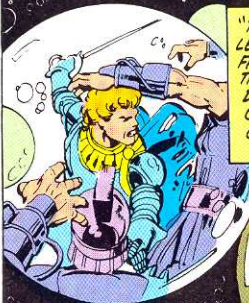
--THEIR MEMORIES SHALL BE HOPELESSLY SCRAMBLED-- THEIR PASTS AN UNKNOWN VOID TO THEMSELVES.

"FIRST, THEIR TWIN BIRTH-- DAUGHTERS OF YOUR MIGHTIEST WARRIOR AND HIS LADY...

"...AS WELL AS YOUR RAZE, AT LEARNING OF THEIR VERY EXISTENCE, IN FULFILLMENT OF THE PROPHECY.

"THEY'LL FORGET THEY EVER LEARNED HOW YOU HAD THEIR FATHER SLAIN-- OR HOW THEIR MOTHER LEAPED TO HER DEATH, AFTER GIVING YOU OVER SECRETLY TO THE CARE OF A MASTER THIEF AND HIS WIFE...

"THEY'LL NOT REMEMBER THEY COULD CALL UPON THE MYSTERIOUS FIGURES MENTORR AND MENTARRA FOR ADVICE, AS THEY DID TO GUIDE THEM FIRST THROUGH EARTHWORLD!...



"... OR HOW, RECENTLY, THEY INVADED MY GREAT TOWER, THEN FLED INTO THE FIRST OF FOUR NETHERWORLDS IN SEARCH OF THE 'SWORD SHINING BRIGHTLY AS SUMMER'S SUN...'



"...WHICH THEY MAY OBTAIN ONLY BY FIRST WINNING CERTAIN OTHER OBJECTS OF POWER.



"PROVIDED, OF COURSE, THAT THEIR ARCHRIVAL HERMINUS THE THIEF DOES NOT GET THEM FIRST!



"AND, IF THE EVIL GODS ARE WITH US, THEY WILL FIND THEIR FINAL DOOM IN THE SPHERE CALLED... 'WATERWORLD!'"

"... THEN AMID THE SCORCHING DANGERS OF FIREWORLD.



NEXT MOMENT, ABOVE THE WATER, TEARS FADE FROM TARRA'S EYES-- AS SHE FORGETS THE VERY ONE FOR WHOM THEY WERE SHED--

--WHILE, BENEATH THE DECEPTIVELY PLACID SURFACE:

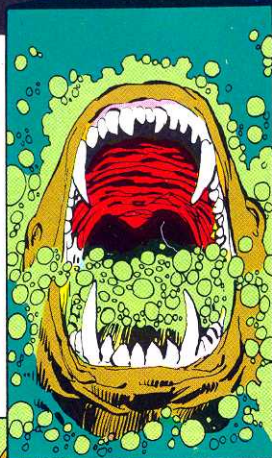


UHHH...
WHERE...?

THANK THE GODS--
I'M ALIVE! THANKS
TO THIS MASK, I'M
STILL BREATHING! I--

HUH?
WHAT'S THAT
CHURNING IN
THE WATER--?

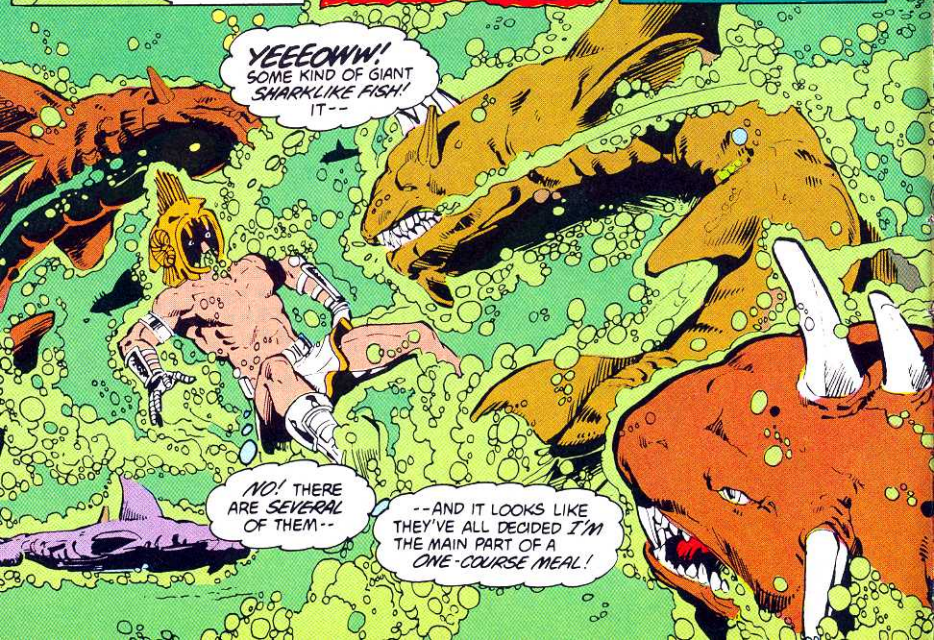
SOMETHING...



YEEOWW!
SOME KIND OF GIANT
SHARKLIKE FISH!
IT--

NO! THERE
ARE SEVERAL
OF THEM--

--AND IT LOOKS LIKE
THEY'VE ALL DECIDED I'M
THE MAIN PART OF A
ONE-COURSE MEAL!



AND ME
WITHOUT SO
MUCH AS A
SHARP
OBJECT TO
CALL MY
OWN!

CAN'T GO
UP--THEY'D
PICK ME OFF,
FOR SURE.

ONLY HOPE--TO
DIVE DOWNWARD
FAST--HOPE I CAN
FIND A PLACE TO--

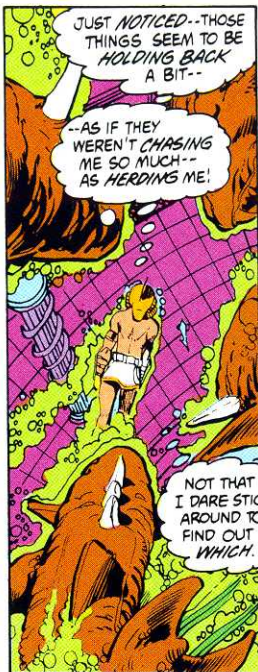
WHAT?!
I DON'T
SEE ANY
CAVES
HANDY--

-- BUT THAT
SUNKEN CITY
OUGHT TO FILL
THE BILL JUST
FINE--IF I CAN
REACH IT!



I DID IT! EITHER I'M THE GREATEST SWIMMER ANYBODY'S EVER SEEN-- OR AT LEAST THE LUCKIEST--

--OR ELSE--
WAIT A SECOND!



JUST NOTICED--THOSE THINGS SEEM TO BE HOLDING BACK A BIT--

--AS IF THEY WEREN'T CHASING ME SO MUCH-- AS HERDING ME!

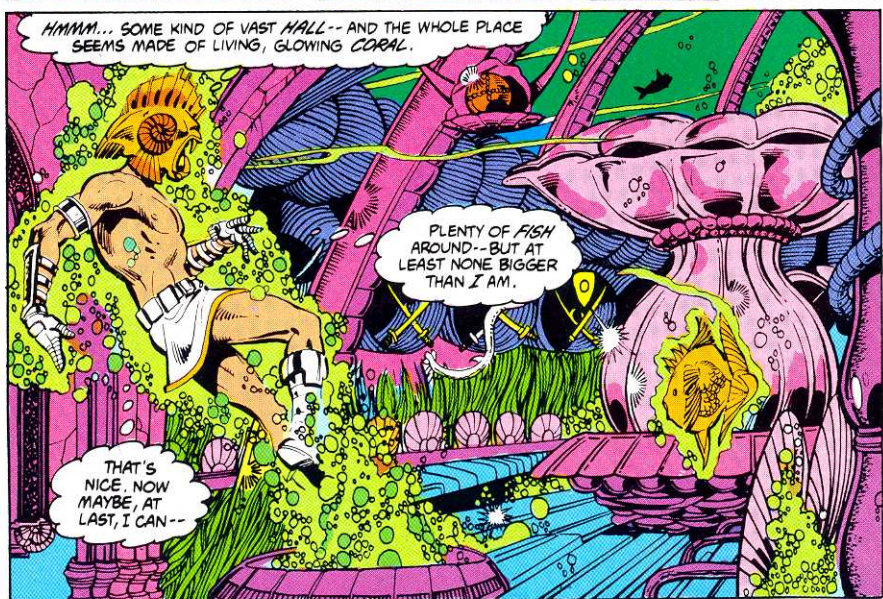
NOT THAT I DARE STICK AROUND TO FIND OUT WHICH.



ANYWAY, MAYBE THEY WON'T FOLLOW ME--



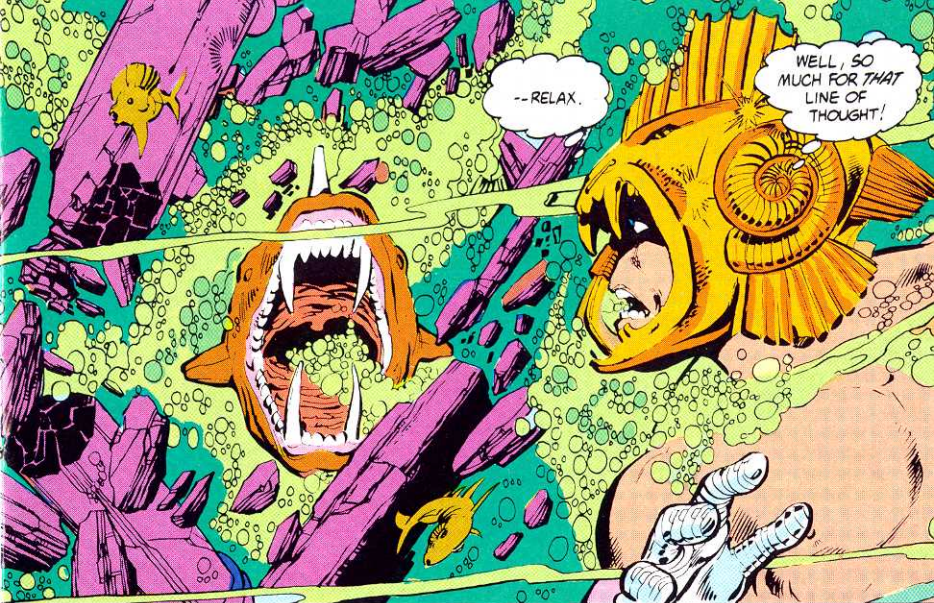
--IN HERE!



HMMM... SOME KIND OF VAST HALL-- AND THE WHOLE PLACE SEEMS MADE OF LIVING, GLOWING CORAL.

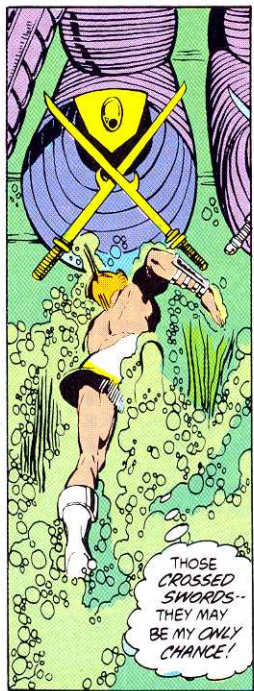
PLENTY OF FISH AROUND--BUT AT LEAST NONE BIGGER THAN I AM.

THAT'S NICE. NOW MAYBE, AT LAST, I CAN--

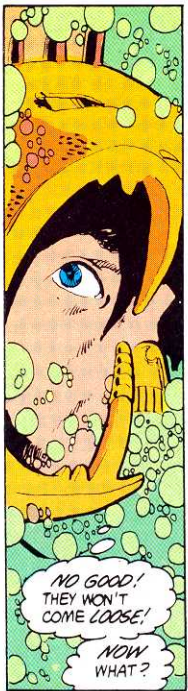


--RELAX.

WELL, SO MUCH FOR THAT LINE OF THOUGHT!



THOSE
CROSSED
SWORDS--
THEY MAY
BE MY ONLY
CHANCE!

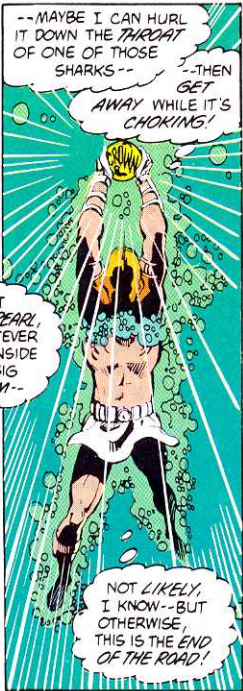


NO GOOD!
THEY WON'T
COME LOOSE!

NOW
WHAT?



THAT
GIANT PEARL,
OR WHATEVER
IT IS--INSIDE
THAT BIG
CLAM--



--MAYBE I CAN HURL
IT DOWN THE THROAT
OF ONE OF THOSE
SHARKS--

--THEN
GET
AWAY WHILE IT'S
CHOKING!

NOT LIKELY,
I KNOW--BUT
OTHERWISE,
THIS IS THE END
OF THE ROAD!



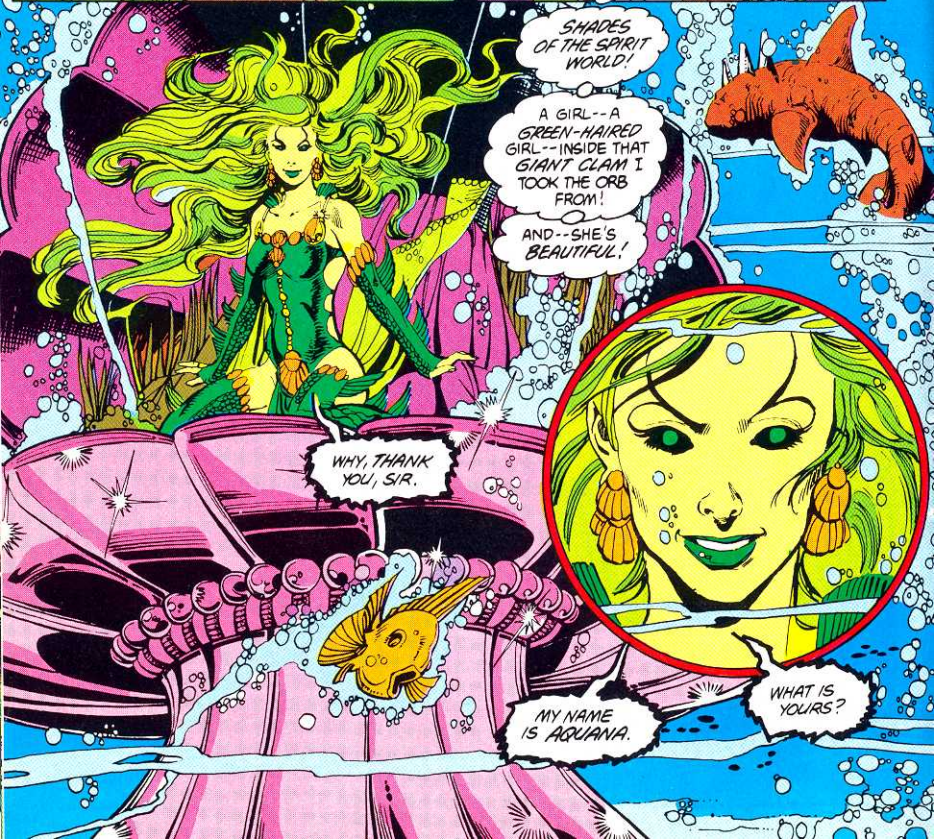
BY THE GODS! THEY'VE STOPPED SHORT!

IT'S THE PEARL! IT MUST BE!



NOT MERELY THE ORB, MY HANDSOME YOUNG FRIEND... ONLY PARTLY.

HUH??



SHADES OF THE SPIRIT WORLD!

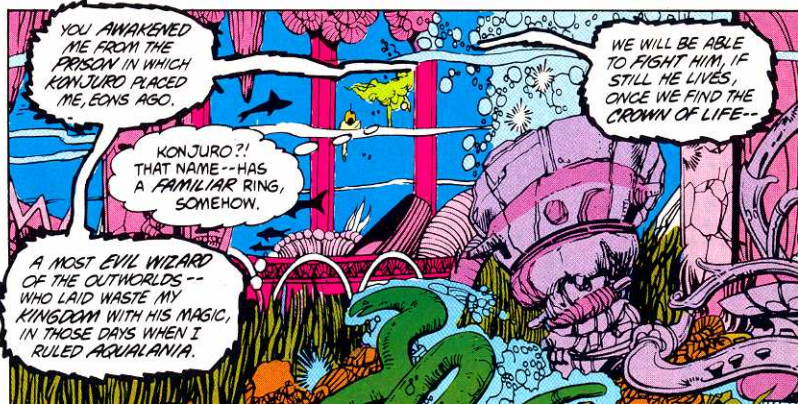
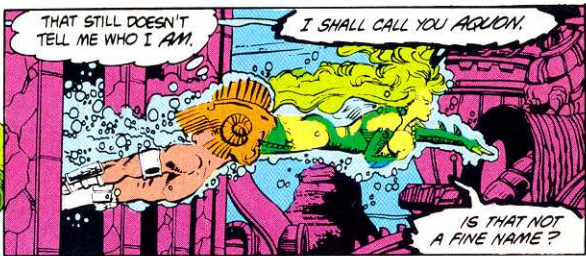
A GIRL--A GREEN-HAIRED GIRL--INSIDE THAT GIANT CLAM I TOOK THE ORB FROM!

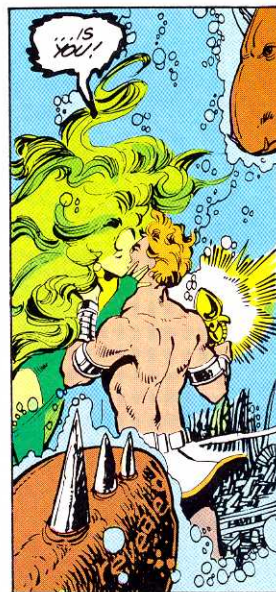
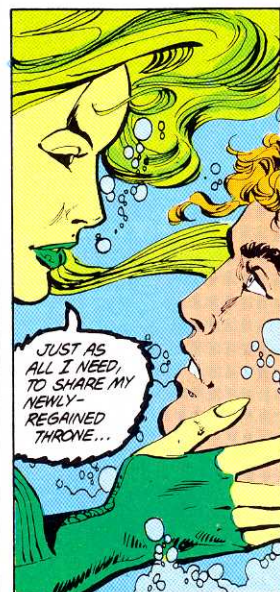
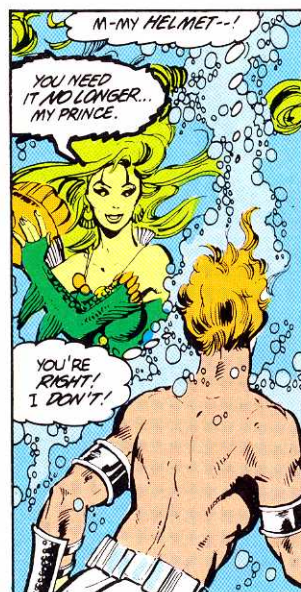
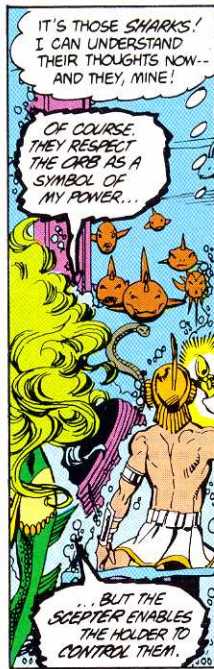
AND--SHE'S BEAUTIFUL!

WHY, THANK YOU, SIR.

MY NAME IS AQUANA.

WHAT IS YOURS?





ABOVE, A SECOND YOUTHFUL FIGURE WAKES, TREMBLING WITH COLD.

SHE KNOWS NOT HER NAME, OR HOW SHE CAME TO BE HERE.

BUT, FOR THE MOMENT, THAT MATTERS LITTLE...

...AS SHE SUDDENLY FEELS THE VERY SEA BUCKLE AND ROIL BENEATH HER...

WHAT--?

...THEN COME ALIVE, A THOUSAND TONS OF ERUPTING, SENTIENT MASS!

WHROOSH!

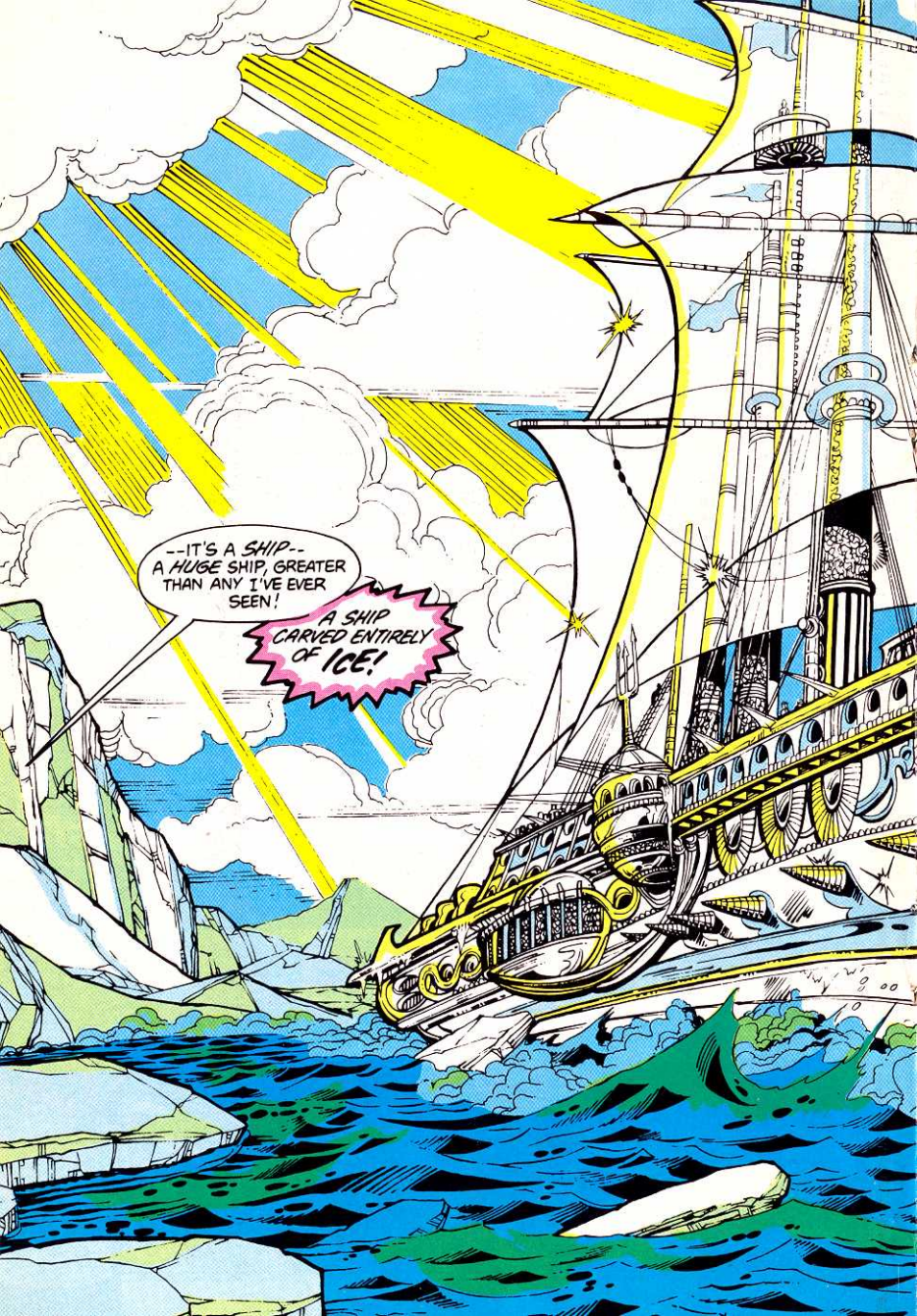
UNNNHH--!

YET, EVEN AS SHE FLOUNDERS AMID THE ICY BRINE, THE *BEHEMOTH*-- AND MORE OF ITS HUGE KIND-- PASS HER BY AS IF SHE WERE NO MORE THAN A PIECE OF INSIGNIFICANT FLOTSAM.

-- SOMETHING THEY HAVE REASON TO FEAR:

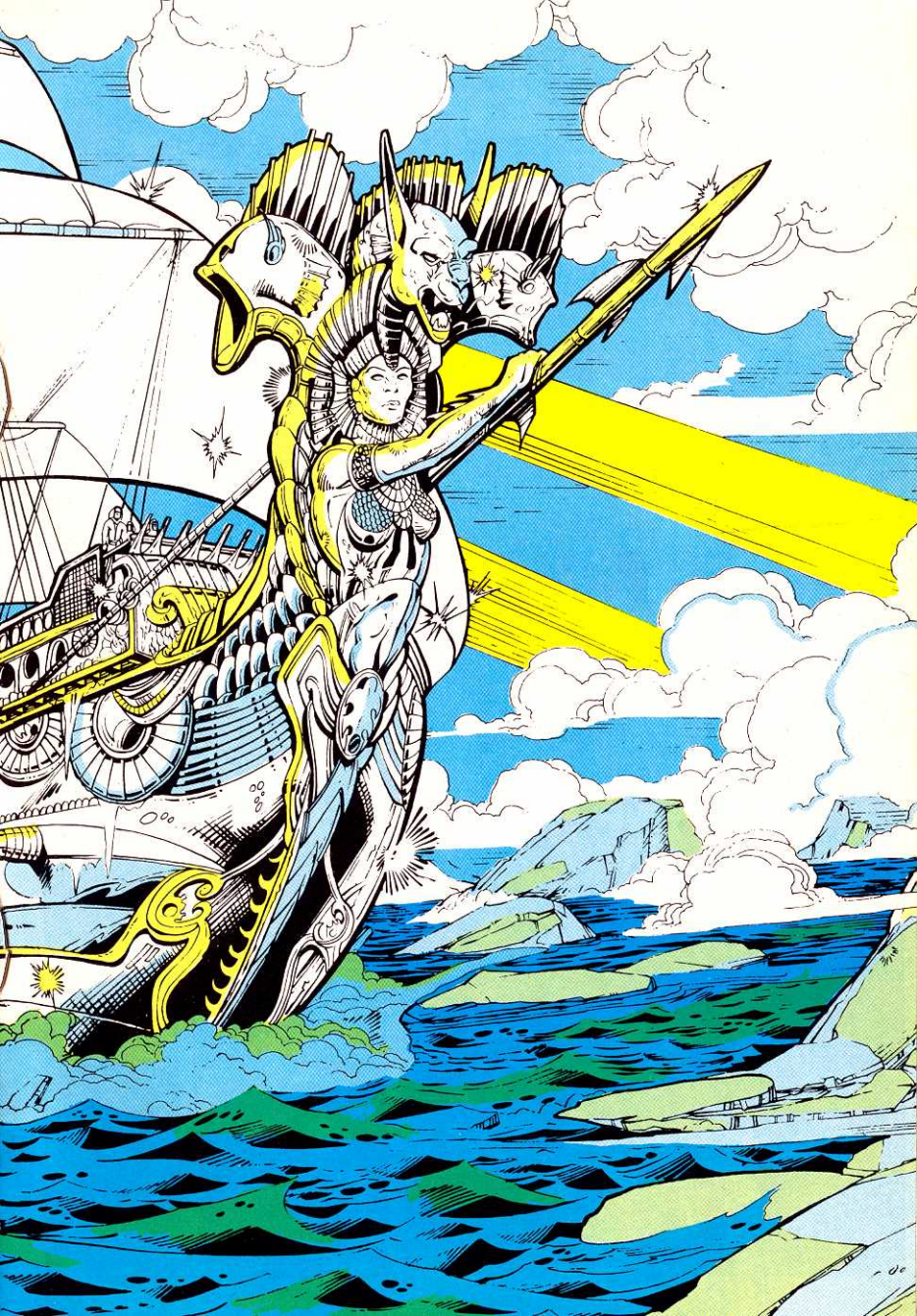
THEY ARE FLEEING SOMETHING -- SOMETHING THEY FEAR --

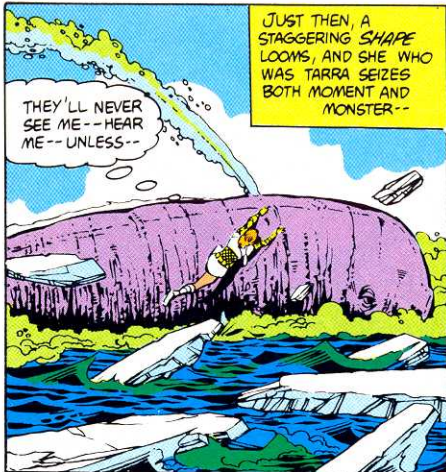
GODS OF MY FATHERS



--IT'S A SHIP--
A HUGE SHIP, GREATER
THAN ANY I'VE EVER
SEEN!

A SHIP
CARVED ENTIRELY
OF ICE!





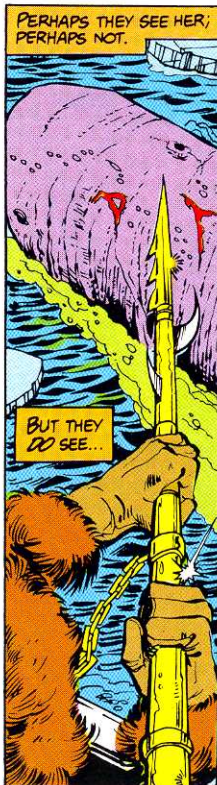
THEY'LL NEVER
SEE ME--HEAR
ME--UNLESS--

JUST THEN, A
STAGGERING SHAPE
LOOMS, AND SHE WHO
WAS TARRA SEIZES
BOTH MOMENT AND
MONSTER--



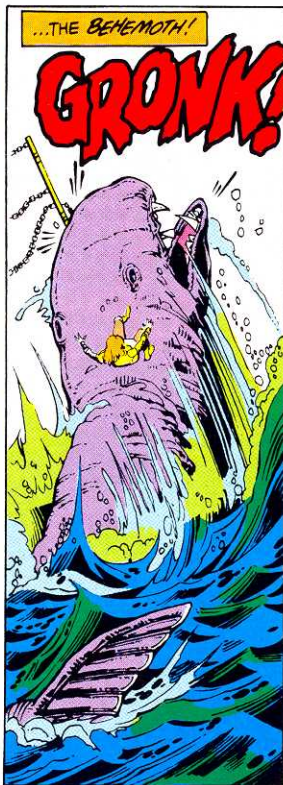
--HOLDING
FAST FOR
DEAREST LIFE
ITSELF.

IF--IF
ONLY SOMEONE
ON BOARD--
SEES ME--!



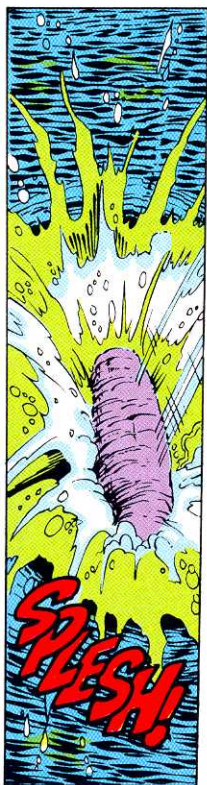
PERHAPS THEY SEE HER;
PERHAPS NOT.

BUT THEY
DO SEE...

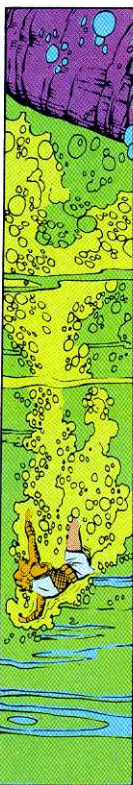


...THE BEHEMOTH!

GRONK!



SPLASH!



WHERE--?

OR MAYBE I SHOULD SAY WHO-- OR EVEN WHAT?!

OUT OF THE
POLAR SEA A PRETTY
FISH HAULED WE,
EH, WORT?

AYE, SKABB...
BUT METHINKS
WE'LL NOT THROW
HER BACK.

NO, HER
KEEP WE.
HERE COME,
LITTLE
WENCHIE!

LISTEN,
YOU APES
IN SHIP'S
CLOTHING--

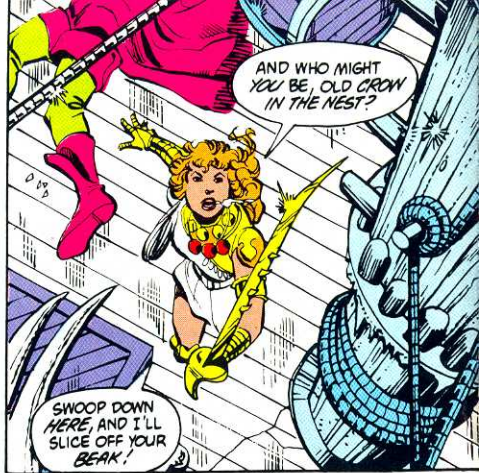
KEEP
AWAY
FROM ME--



--OR I'LL DEAL HARSHLY WITH YOU BOTH!

LOOKS TO ME LIKE YOU ALREADY HAVE, LASS.

COOOF...!



AND WHO MIGHT YOU BE, OLD CROW IN THE NEST?

SWOOP DOWN HERE, AND I'LL SLICE OFF YOUR BEAK!



WHY, DON'T YOU KNOW ME IN MY PIRATE GEAR, GIRL?

HERMINUS?! IT'S NOT A NAME I KNOW, FELLOW-- BUT THEN, WHY SHOULD I--

--WHEN I KNOW NOT MY OWN?

EH? YOU DON'T KNOW--?

HOLD IT THERE! I'LL BE RIGHT DOWN!

HERMINUS IS USED TO MAKING A FAR STRONGER IMPRESSION ON FOLKS THAN THAT. ‡

‡ IN OUR FIRST TWO GAMES/ISSUES.



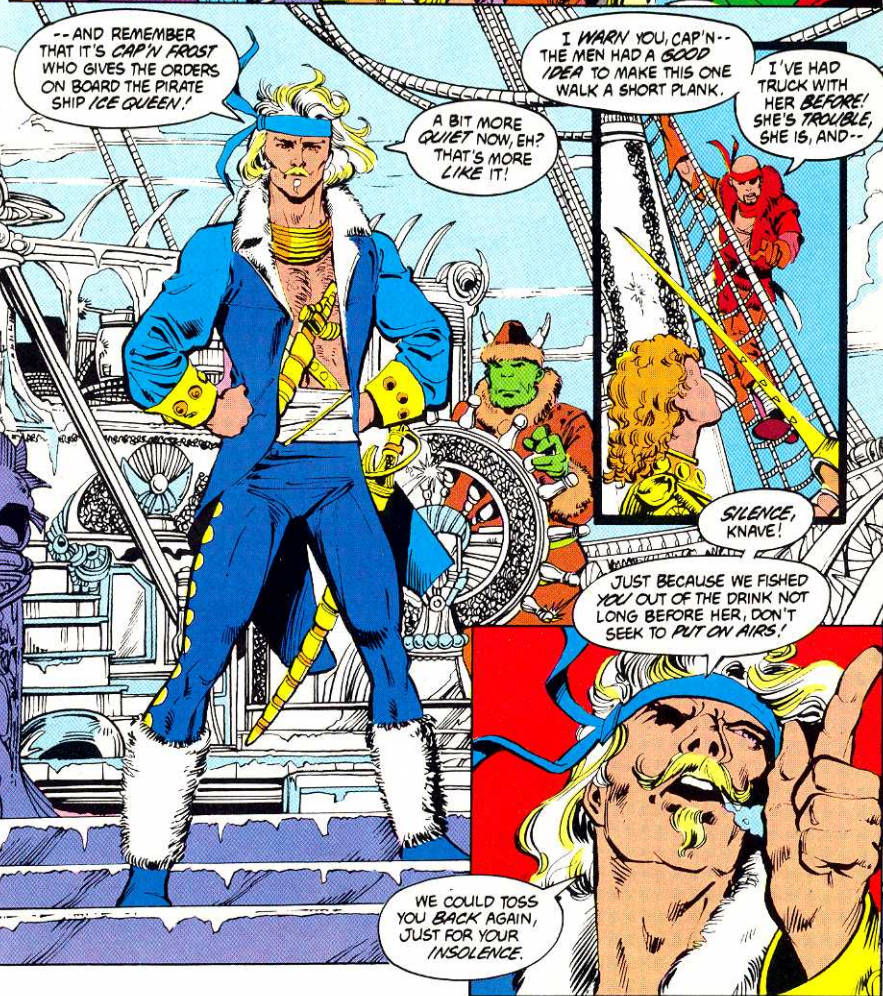
YOU'D BEST HURRY, HERMINUS--

SO!



--OR YOU'LL HAVE TO BECOME SHARK'S MEAT YOURSELF IF YOU WANT TO JAW WITH HER!

AYE! DOWN MORT AND SKABB, WILL SHE?





NOW, WHO ARE YOU, GIRL? DO YOU CLAIM TO COME FROM A WORLD OF FIRE, AS HERMINUS DOES?

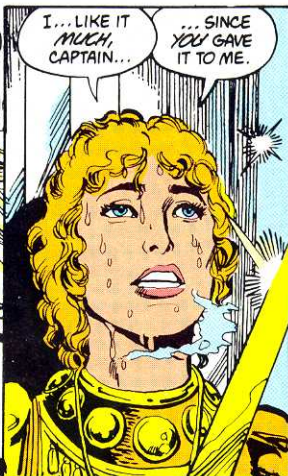
I--I DO NOT KNOW WHERE I CAME FROM--OR WHO I AM, I FEAR.

HMMMM... A LASS WITH NEITHER HOME NOR NAME, AND HANDY WITH A BLADE, TO BOOT!



WELL, SINCE YOU'VE NO NAME OF YOUR OWN, I'LL GIVE YOU ONE.

HOW LIKE YOU--DAWN-HAIR?



I...LIKE IT MUCH, CAPTAIN...

... SINCE YOU GAVE IT TO ME.



LATER...

I GUESS STRANGER THINGS HAVE HAPPENED, LASS, THAN PEOPLE WHO DROP FROM THE SKY... OR RIDE THE BACKS OF THE SNOW-WHALES.



'TIS SAID, AFTER ALL, THIS AGE OF ICE WAS THRUST UPON OUR WORLD BY A WIZARD NAMED KONJURO.

THOSE ABOVE AND BELOW THE WAVES WERE ONE PEOPLE THEN... BUT NOW THEY DO NOT EVEN SPEAK THE SAME TONGUE.



NOW, SLOWLY, THE ICE IS BREAKING UP, BUT-- WELL, NOW!

YOU WEAR THAT GEAR LIKE A CORSAIR BORN, DAWN-HAIR.

MY THANKS, CAPTAIN.

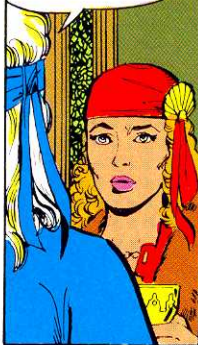
I WISH I KNEW IF I WERE OF THIS WORLD, EITHER OF YOUR KIND, OR OF THOSE YOU CALL THE... UH...

THE AQUALANIANS. BUT YOU'RE NOT ONE OF THAT SCATTERED, BARBAROUS, WATER-BREATHING RACE.



I GUESS NOT...YET WHY DO YOU KILL THE SNOW-WHALES, AND STRIP THEIR BONES BARE?

BECAUSE THEY WOULD SERVE THE AQUALANIANS, IF EVER THEY UNITED AGAINST US...



...AND I AM DETERMINED IT BE AN AIR-BREATHER... MYSELF...WHO'LL RULE THIS WATERY WORLD.

ALL WILL OBEY ME, WHEN I'VE FOUND THE ELUSIVE CROWN OF LIFE I SEEK, DAWN-HAIR.

AND WHEN I DO, WHOEVER YOU MAY TRULY BE...



...I MAY JUST FIND MYSELF IN NEED OF A QUEEN WITH HAIR LIKE THE RISING SUN.



CURSE CAP'N FROST!

YET, WITHOUT HIS SHIP, I'D HAVE FROZEN EVEN BEFORE I DROWNED.



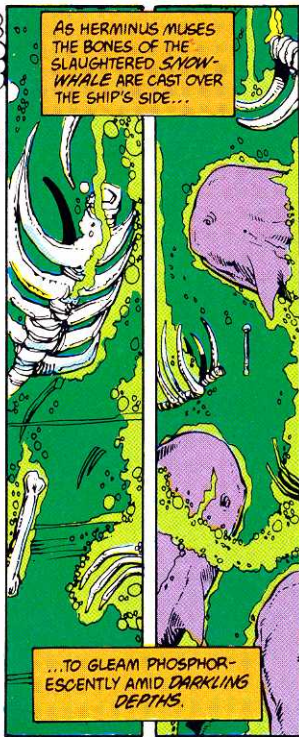
HOW CAN I FIND THE SWORD OF ULTIMATE SORCERY UPON THIS MAD, LANDLESS WORLD--

-- WHEN SHE WHO MIGHT LEAD ME TO IT KNOWS NOT HER VERY NAME?



AND WHERE'S HER CHURLISH BROTHER, I WONDER?!

AS HERMINUS MUSES THE BONES OF THE SLAUGHTERED SNOW-WHALE ARE CAST OVER THE SHIP'S SIDE...



...TO GLEAM PHOSPHOR-ESCENTLY AMID DARKLING DEPTHS.

AND SOON,
BACK IN A SUB-
SEA CASTLE
OF CORAL AND
SHELL...

WITH MY MEMORY GONE, I'M NOT CERTAIN,
AQUANA... BUT ISN'T THAT THE TYPE OF
THING A MAN USUALLY SAYS TO A WOMAN...

WHAT MATTERS
IS WHICH OF
US IS --

... ESPECIALLY TO
ONE LIKE YOU?

YOU
LOOK
LOVELY!

WHAT'S WRONG??

THE SNOW-
WHALES! DON'T
YOU HEAR THEIR
CRY?

I HEAR--
SOMETHING.
SOMETHING
PIERCING--
YET SAD--!

THAT IS THE
DEATH-SONGS OF
THE SNOW-WHALES--
THE OLDEST ALLIED
RACE OF
AQUALANIA.

ONE OF THEIR NUMBER
HAS BEEN BASELY SLAIN--
BY MEN WHO SAIL THE
SEAS ABOVE!

COME! KONJURO FORETOLD
A WAR 'TWIXT AIR-BREATHER
AND OUR PEOPLE, THE DAY HE
RAISED A MAGICAL WALL OF
ICE BETWEEN US--

--AND IF HIS PROPHECY IS
COMING TRUE-- 'T WILL
BE A WAR THAT WILL LEAVE
NO ONE LIVING ABOVE THE
ALL-CONQUERING WAVES!

NIGHT STILL LIES LIKE A HEAVY SHROUD UPON A WORLD DIVIDED AGAINST ITSELF...



CAPTAIN...?

NO, HE'S STILL ASLEEP... EXHAUSTED FROM THE DAY'S LABORS, AND HIS CROWN-QUEST.

YET, I HEARD... SOMETHING.

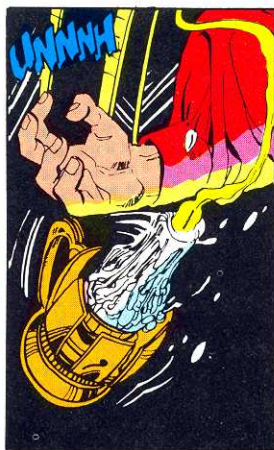


BEST HAVE A LOOK...!



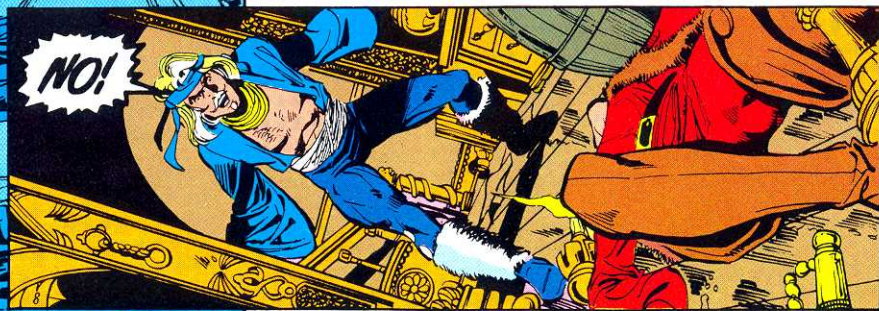
HERMINUS!?

YOU!



DAWN-HAIR? I WAS... DREAMING. YOU WERE PULLED, WRESTED FROM MY ARMS... BY A SKELETAL FIGURE THAT...

DAWN-HAIR? WHERE--?



NO!



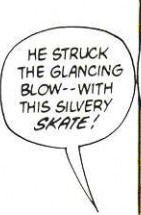
WHAT HAPPENED, GIRL? WE DOZED FROM ALL MY BABBLE, AND WHEN I WOKE--

HERMINUS-- I SAW HIM BY THE LIGHT OF MY CANDLE! HE--



I'LL CARRY OUT MY THREATS TO FEED HIM TO THE FISHES FOR THIS! BUT WHY--?

I KNOW NOT THE WHY, CAPTAIN-- BUT AT LEAST I KNOW THE HOW.

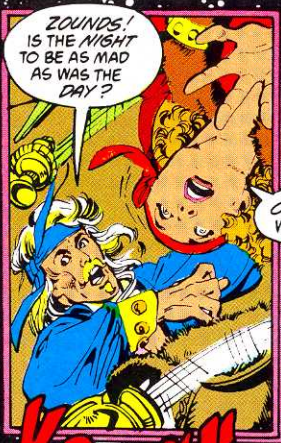


HE STRUCK THE GLANCING BLOW-- WITH THIS SILVERY SKATE!



THEN BE GLAD YOUR BANDANNA AND FULL HEAD OF HAIR PROTECTED YOU, LASS-- FOR THESE ARE VERY SPECIAL SKATES.

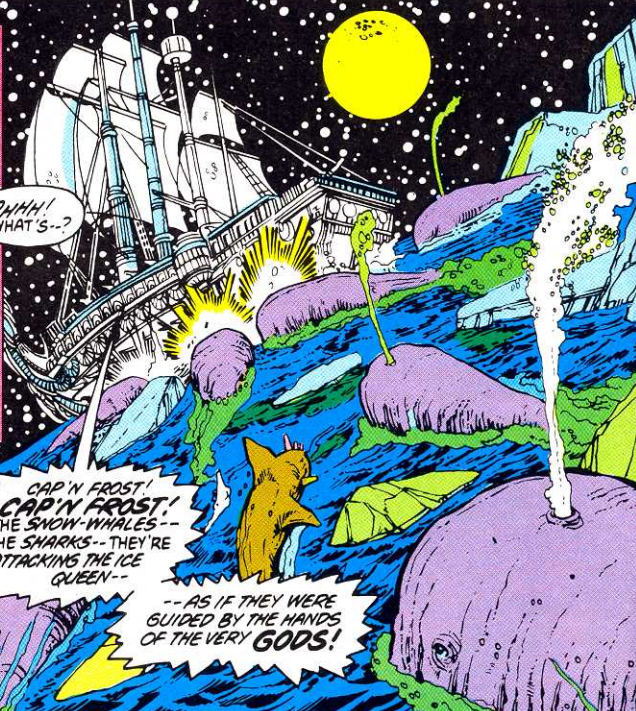
IF HERMINUS WANTED THEM, PERHAPS HE TOO SEEKS THE CROWN OF LIFE, JUST AS I--



ZOUNDS! IS THE NIGHT TO BE AS MAD AS WAS THE DAY?

OHHH! WHAT'S--?

KRUNCH!



CAP'N FROST! CAP'N FROST! THE SNOW-WHALES-- THE SHARKS-- THEY'RE ATTACKING THE ICE QUEEN--

-- AS IF THEY WERE GUIDED BY THE HANDS OF THE VERY GODS!



GOODS--

AIEEEEE

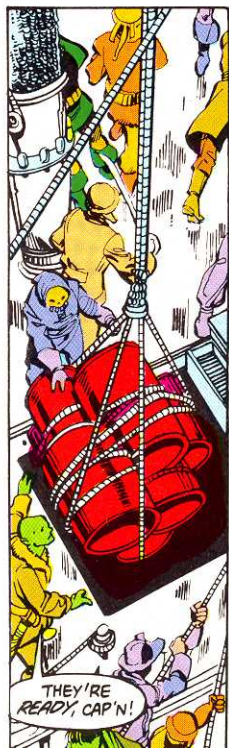
WHAMY

--OR DEVILS?



ENOUGH BLOWS LIKE THAT ONE--
AND THOSE BEASTS'LL SINK THE
SHIP, LEAVING US AT THE MERCY
OF THE SHARKS!

READY THE CHOKS'
OF DEATH!



THEY'RE
READY, CAP'N!



THEN LOWER
AWAY, ME
HEARTIES--



--AND WE'LL
BLAST THE SEA-
DEVILS TO
KINGDOM
COME!



WHROOM

CAPTAIN FROST--YOU'RE
TEARING THOSE POOR,
DUMB ANIMALS TO
PIECES!

MUST YOU LASH
OUT SO BLOODY
AGAINST--?

KEEP A CIVIL
TONGUE IN YOUR
HEAD, GIRL! I'M
CAP'N ABOARD
THIS VESSEL.

I LOVE *NOT* KILLING
FOR ITS OWN SAKE,
BUT THIS IS *WAR* WITH
A FOE UNSEEN, AND
I'LL--

SUDDENLY--

HSS
SSSS
YAAA

THERE'S YOUR
ANSWER, BOYS!

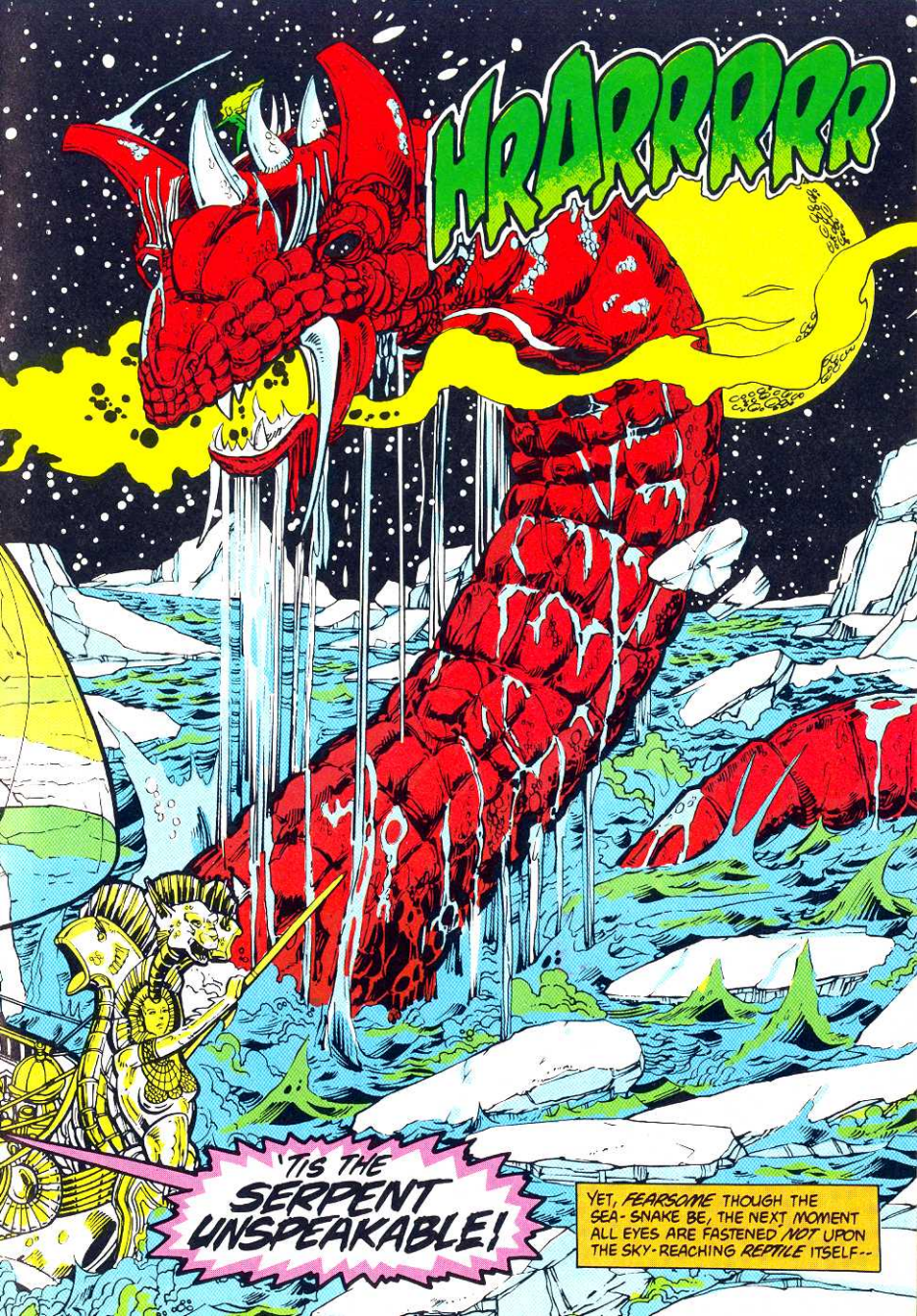
A SPOUT OF
BOILING-HOT
WATER--SHOOTING
RIGHT THROUGH
THE HULL!

BUT WHAT
IN ALL THE SEAS
COULD HAVE--?

MAY THE
GODS TAKE
PITY
'PON US!

NO! IT--IT
CANNOT BE!

I'VE HEARD OF SUCH
A THING--IN TIME-LOST
LEGENDS--BUT I NE'ER
DREAMED--!



HRARRRRR

**'TIS THE
SERPENT
UNSPEAKABLE!**

YET, FEARSOME THOUGH THE SEA-SNAKE BE, THE NEXT MOMENT ALL EYES ARE FASTENED *NOT* UPON THE SKY-REACHING REPTILE ITSELF--

--BUT UPON THE LITHE AND LOVELY FORM
POISED DRAMATICALLY UPON ITS GIGANTIC
HEAD:

PIRATES! LEAVE
OFF YOUR MAD QUEST FOR
THE CROWN OF LIFE,
WHICH IS *YINE* BY RIGHTS--

-- OR ELSE
KNOW THAT AQUANA
HAS RETURNED AT
LAST, TO DESTROY
YOU ALL!

AQUANA?! IF YOU
BE THAT FAIRY-TALE
QUEEN, BEST SURRENDER
YOURSELF--AND BRING
YOUR WORM TO HEEL
WITH YOU!

I'LL BRING
YOU NAUGHT
BUT-- THIS!



ONCE MORE, IT'S NOT FLAME
WHICH SPUTS FROM THE DRAGON'S
MAW, BUT VOLCANICALLY-HOT
LIQUID--



YET A MAN MAY
BE SCALDED TO
DEATH AS EASILY
AS MERELY BURNED.

A BIT MORE OF THAT--
AND WE'LL HAVE
NEITHER MEN NOR
SHIP LEFT!

THE SILVERY
SKATES!
WHERE--?

I--I
LEFT
THEM IN
THE CABIN.



THEN DO WHAT YOU
CAN HERE, WHILE I
FETCH THEM!

IT'S FOLLY
FOR THE CAPTAIN
TO WASTE HIS LIFE IN
VAIN ASSAULT AGAINST
MAID AND MONSTER--



--WHEN THERE'S
ONE ABOARD
WHO OWES HER
VERY LIFE TO
HIM!

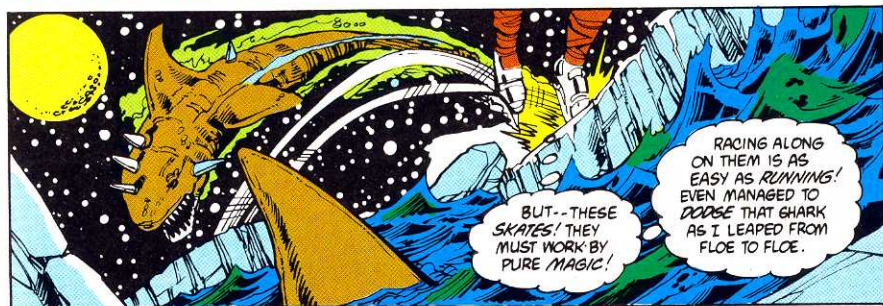
GODS! SHE'S
A BRAVE ONE--
FOR ALL THAT
SHE'S A FOOL!



MAYBE I AM A FIRST-CLASS FOOL AT THAT-- WHOEVER I AM!

I DIDN'T EVEN KNOW IF I COULD STAND UP ON THESE THINGS OR NOT--

-- AND NOW I'M A TARGET FOR THOSE SPIKE-HEADED SHARKS!



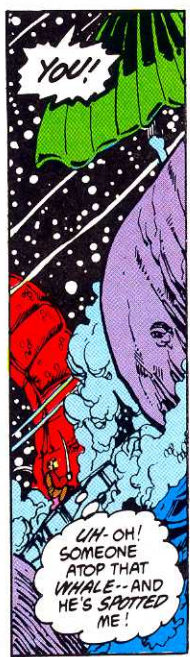
RACING ALONG ON THEM IS AS EASY AS RUNNING! EVEN MANAGED TO DODGE THAT GHARK AS I LEAPED FROM FLOE TO FLOE.

BUT--THESE SKATES! THEY MUST WORK BY PURE MAGIC!



DON'T KNOW IF THE MAGIC WILL LAST, THOUGH--

--SO I'D BETTER SEE IF I CAN CIRCLE AROUND BEHIND THAT GIRL AND HER SERPENT, BEFORE THEY--



YOU!

UH-OH! SOMEONE ATOX THAT WHALE-- AND HE'S SPOTTED ME!



STAY RIGHT THERE-- AND PUT DOWN YOUR SWORD!

I KNOW JUST WHERE I'LL PUT IT--IF YOU COME DOWN HERE!



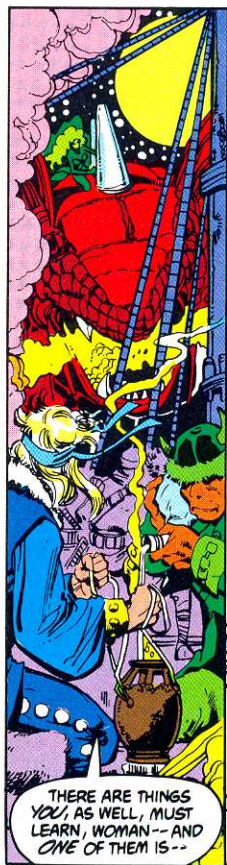
AYE, THAT I SHALL! BEFORE YOU DARE ATTACK EITHER QUEEN OR SERPENT--

--YOU FIRST MUST DEAL WITH AQUON!

AS ABOVE THE GLEAMING DECKS NEARBY...

STRIKE, SERPENT--
STRIKE!

LET THE SCUM
LEARN THE PEOPLE
OF THE DEEP WILL
NOT STAND IDLY BY
WHILE THE CROWN OF
LIFE IS PLUNDERED
BY PIRATES!



THERE ARE THINGS
YOU, AS WELL, MUST
LEARN, WOMAN-- AND
ONE OF THEM IS--



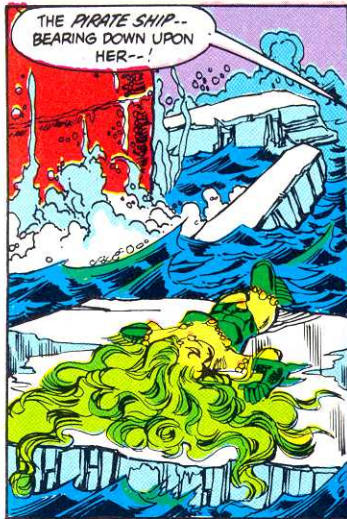
--NEVER
COME WITHIN
REACH OF A
DESPERATE
FOE!



AQUANA!



GRIEVE NOT
FOR HER! SHE'S
RIGHTLY
SERVED--FOR
ATTACKING
THE ICE
QUEEN--



THE PIRATE SHIP--
BEARING DOWN UPON
HER--!



SERPENT!
SAVE YOUR
MISTRESS!

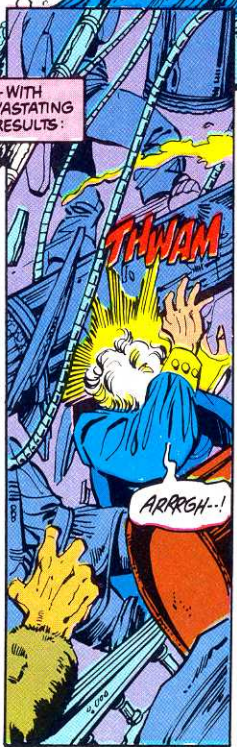


PERHAPS THE GREAT
DRAGON UNDERSTANDS.

MORE
LIKELY, NOT.



YET, NEXT MOMENT, ITS VAST
BULK SLAMS INTO THE
CORSAIR CRAFT--



-- WITH
DEVASTATING
RESULTS:

THWAM

ARRRGH--!




**CAPTAIN
FROST!**



HE'S HURT--
AYE, HURT BAD!

AND HERE
COMES THE MEAT-
SPEWING
HELLSPAWN!



AYE, THE SERPENT OBEYS ME NOW, THROUGH AQUANA'S SCEPTER.

I COULD HAVE IT ATTACK YOU ANEW-- BUT SOMETHING STAYS MY HAND.

MY LADY AQUANA DESIRES THE CROWN OF LIFE HIDDEN NEARBY-- AS DOES YOUR LEADER-- BUT I SAY THERE HAS BEEN ENOUGH OF KILLING.

LET US CEASE THIS STRUGGLE-- AND SLAY NO MORE!



WELL SAID, BOY.



THUS, SINCE AQUANA CANNOT SPEAK FOR HERSELF, JUST NOW...

YET IT'S NOT FOR THE LIKES OF US TO DECIDE, IS IT?

...NOR CAN CAPTAIN FROST...

...IT'S LEFT UP TO THE CHURLISH CREWMEN:

I CARE NAUGHT FOR THAT CROWN. LET'S DO AS THE YOUTH SAYS!

'TIS AGREED, THEN! WE'LL--

HEAR NOW THE WORDS OF HERMINUS!

I SAY-- LET THOSE TWO WHELPS DEAL UPON THE ICE, WITH SWORDS ALONE, AT NO RISK TO US--

YES, LET'S GO-- WHILE I'VE STILL ONE GOOD EYE.

HOLD, MY STURDY LADS!

--WINNER TAKE ALL!



IF THE LASS WINS, WE GET CROWN AND SCEPTER AND LORDSHIP EVEN OVER THE SERPENT-- WHILE IF THE LAD, HE WINS THE ICE QUEEN HERSELF!

WHAT SAY YOU? YOU'VE SEEN THE LASS FIGHT!

AYE! LET THEM FIGHT!

AND EITHER WAY-- HERMINUS SHALL COME OUT ON TOP!

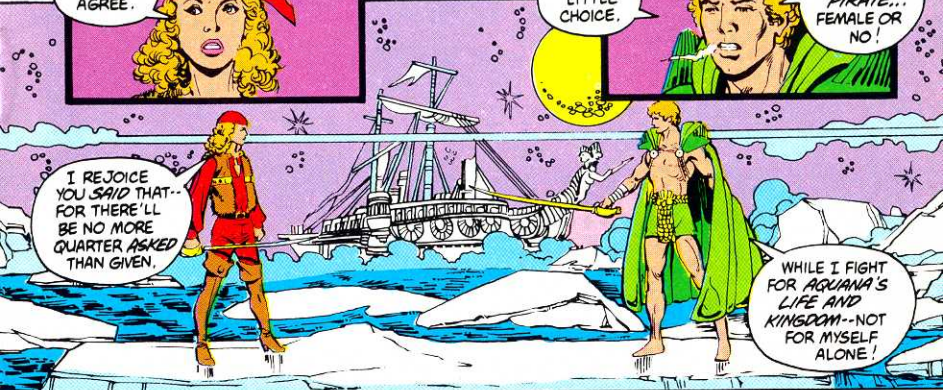


THEN I, TOO... AGREE.



I'VE... LITTLE CHOICE.

BESIDES, A PIRATE'S A PIRATE... FEMALE OR NO!



I REJOICE YOU SAID THAT-- FOR THERE'LL BE NO MORE QUARTER ASKED THAN GIVEN.

WHILE I FIGHT FOR AQUANA'S LIFE AND KINGDOM--NOT FOR MYSELF ALONE!

THUS, WHILE A RECOVERED CAP'N FROST WATCHES HIS CREW WILL MUTINY IF HE OPPOSE THEM NOW...



... AND A HALF-DAZED AQUANA STAKES HER ALL UPON HER NEWFOUND LOVE'S SUPERIORITY TO A MERE GIRL...



... AND HERMINUS STUFFS RETRIEVED SKATES INTO HIS AMPLE THIEF BAG...



... TWO SWORDS ARE RAISED AGAINST THE COLD NIGHT SKY:



LET THE BATTLE BEGIN!

DO THEY SUSPECT,
THESE TWO ANTAGONISTS
UPON THE SLIPPERY ICE?

AS THEY CROSS SWORDS -- AS EVENLY MATCHED
AS ONLY TWINS WITH INTRICATELY ENTWINED
DESTINIES CAN --

KLANG!

-- DOES SOME SMALL
PART OF THE MIND OF
EACH RECOGNIZE
THE OTHER?

STRANGELY, IT IS
TARRA NOW WHO
HAS BECOME THE
MORE AGGRESSIVE,
THE MORE
IMPETUOUS --
TOUR LESS SO
THAN BEFORE...

WANG!

...THOUGH HE'S NO
MAN TO BE COUNTED
OUT IN A FIGHT WHICH
MAY WELL BE TO THE
DEATH.

AT LAST, AFTER
WHAT SEEMS AN
ETERNITY OF
KLANGING, ECHOING
SWORD-CLASHING --

KLANK!

I ADMIT IT --
YOU ARE LESS
THE FOP THAN
YOU APPEAR!

WHILE YOU
HAVE CONSIDERABLE
SKILL -- FOR A
GIRL!



HOLD! BEFORE WE CONTINUE, AND ONE OF US MUST DIE--

--LET US TAKE A MOMENT TO ASK OUR DEITIES FOR GUIDANCE.



YES, I-- THE SAME STIRRINGS I FEEL WITHIN MYSELF.

I'LL NOT STRIKE YOU WHILE YOU PRAY.

YET, EVEN AS FURROWED BROWS ARE KNIT FOR AN INSTANT'S CONCENTRATION--

WHAT SORCERY IS THIS, GIRL? SPECTRAL FIGURES-- APPEARING OUT OF NOWHERE?!

THEY'RE NO DOING OF MINE, BOY. I KNOW THEM NOT.

AND YET, SOMEHOW-- I DO!

WE ARE THOSE WHO CAME TO YOU FIRST IN EARTHWORLD, THEN ON FIREWORLD.

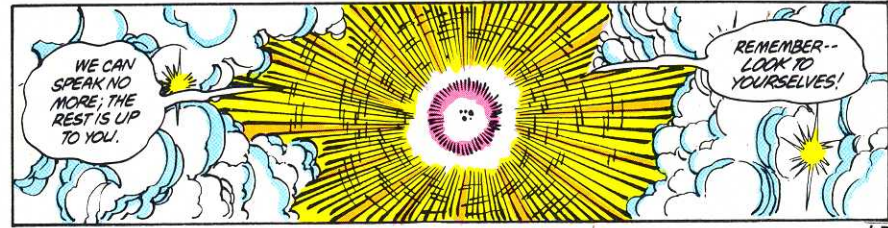
AND NOW WE ARE COME AGAIN-- BECAUSE, IN THE DARK RECESSES OF YOUR MINDS, YOU CALLED UPON US.

W-WE DID!?

AYE. BUT THIS TIME, LOOK NOT FOR MENTORR AND MENTARRA TO GUIDE YOU... FOR YOU MUST BE YOUR OWN GUIDES.

MERELY LOOK AT THE ONE YOU WOULD SEEK TO SLAY AND YOU SHALL SEE YOURSELF!

EH? WHAT DO YOU--?



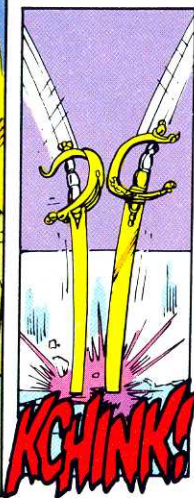
WE CAN SPEAK NO MORE; THE REST IS UP TO YOU.

REMEMBER-- LOOK TO YOURSELVES!

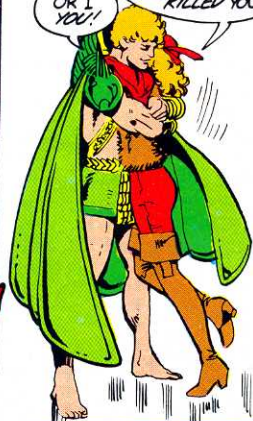
AND WHEN THEY DO, AND FACES SO MUCH LIKE THEIR OWN PEER WONDERINGLY BACK--



--VEILS OF DARKNESS ARE LIFTED FROM THEIR TROUBLED MINDS--



TARRA-- MY SISTER!
OR I YOU!
DEAR BROTHER-- I MIGHT HAVE KILLED YOU!



THAT METALLIC TOUGH WHEN SWORDS STRUCK ICE--!

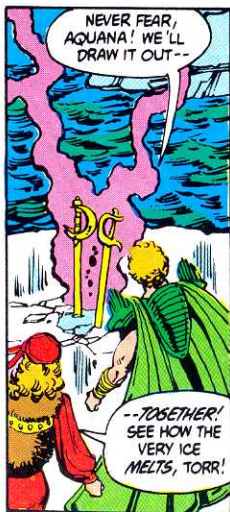


DAWN-HAIR! LOOK TO YOUR BLADE!

AQUANA! DO NOT LET FROST'S FANCY ONE RETRIEVE WHAT MUST LIE BURIED THERE!



NEVER FEAR, AQUANA! WE'LL DRAW IT OUT--



LOOK! IT'S HALF A CROWN-- SO GLEAMINGLY LOVELY--!

--TOGETHER! SEE HOW THE VERY ICE MELTS, TORR!

AND I'VE THE OTHER HALF!

OUR BLADES SOMEHOW ROUND THE CROWN OF LIFE-- EVEN AS THEY SLICED IT IN TWAIN!





YOU'VE-- DESTROYED IT! A CROWN SOUGHT FOR UNTOLD AGES-- AND BRINGING TOTAL POWER OVER THIS WORLD!

NOW-- 'TIS USELESS!



NO, NOT USELESS--



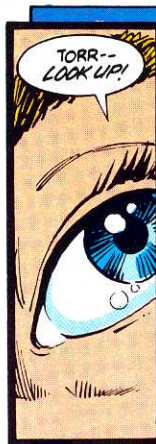
-- BUT MERELY SOMETHING TO BE SHARED!



AGONY AND DAWN-HAIR ARE NO MORE-- BUT YOU'VE A WORLD TO RULE AND TO SAVE, AS THE GREAT THAW CONTINUES.

THERE IS WORLD ENOUGH FOR ALL-- BUT NOT FOR ONE ONLY!

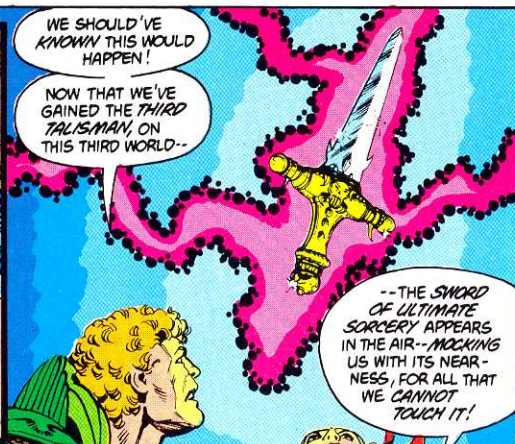
RISE TO THE CHALLENGE! JOIN FORCES AND--



TORR-- LOOK UP!

WE SHOULD'VE KNOWN THIS WOULD HAPPEN!

NOW THAT WE'VE GAINED THE THIRD TALISMAN, ON THIS THIRD WORLD--



--THE SWORD OF ULTIMATE SORCERY APPEARS IN THE AIR--MOCKING US WITH ITS NEARNESS, FOR ALL THAT WE CANNOT TOUCH IT!



NO! DO NOT TOUCH IT, WHELPS!

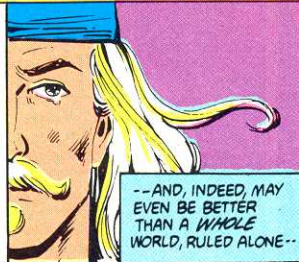
I WAS THE MASTER THIEF WHO FIRST TRIED TO STEAL IT-- AND I'LL HAVE IT YET.

THE SWORD IS MINE!

THEN, EVEN AS UNDERSEA QUEEN AND ICE CORSAIR LOOK DEEP INTO EACH OTHERS' EYES--



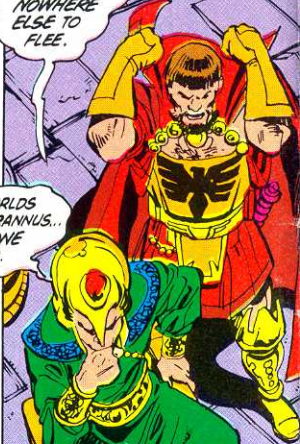
--AND EACH REALIZES THAT HALF A WORLD IS BETTER FAR THAN NONE--



--AND, INDEED, MAY EVEN BE BETTER THAN A WHOLE WORLD, RULED ALONE--

NOW AT LAST WE HAVE THEM IN A COSMIC CORNER--FOR THEY HAVE NOWHERE ELSE TO FLEE.

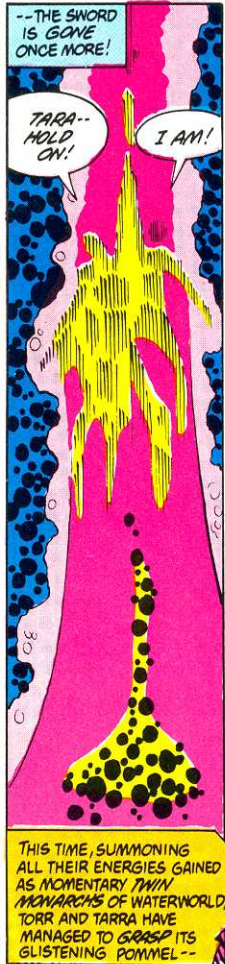
GOOD! THEN MAKE READY A SPELL, KON JURO!



--THE SWORD IS GONE ONCE MORE!

TARA-- HOLD ON!

I AM!



THIS TIME, SUMMONING ALL THEIR ENERGIES GAINED AS MOMENTARY TWIN MONARCHS OF WATERWORLD, TORR AND TARRA HAVE MANAGED TO GRASP ITS GLISTENING POMMEL--

--WITH EERIE RESULTS:



BLAST! COULDN'T REACH THOSE BRATS IN TIME TO--

WH--? CAUGHT-- IN THE UPDRAFT! I'M--



THREE WORLDS DOWN, O TYRANNUS... AND BUT ONE TO GO.



WE ARE GOING PERSONALLY, YOU AND I--

--TO THE PLACE CALLED AIRWORLD!



ATARI

C020134