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1 JULY 02334



WHEN GODS WALK THE EARTH! THE ETERNALS

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WE'VE FOUND IT--
THE TOMB
OF THE
SPACE GODS!

AND THEY'RE NOT DEAD! LOOK TO THE STARS!

THE GODS ARE COMING BACK!



FIRST ISSUE!
THE START OF
JACK KIRBY'S LONG-AWAITED COSMIC SERIES!

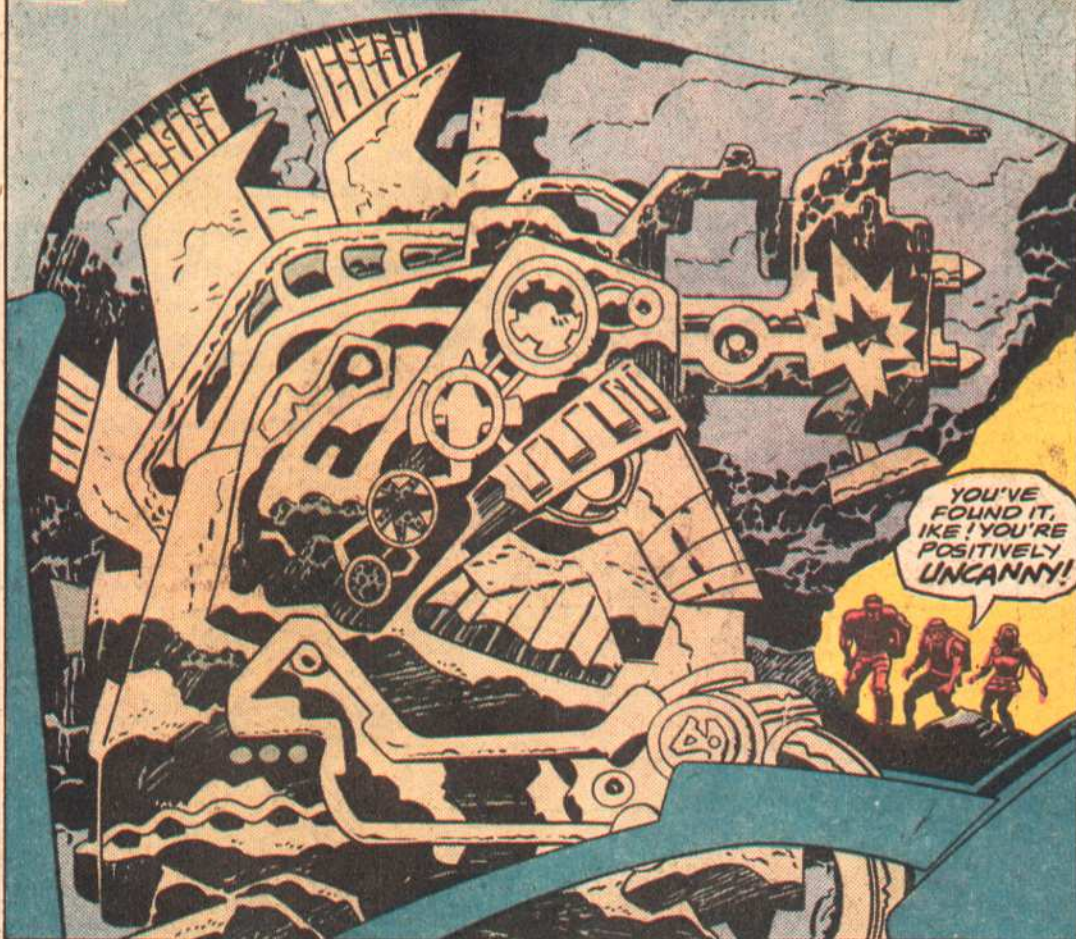
Stan Lee
PRESENTS:

THE ETERNALS!

JULY 1981

IS MAN ALONE IN THE UNIVERSE? EVERY MYTH AND LEGEND TO EMERGE FROM THE DISTANT PAST POINTS TO A STRANGE VISITATION FROM THE STARS!! BEINGS OF GREAT POWER HAVE BEEN ON THIS EARTH--AND THEN DEPARTED! WHO WERE THEY? WHAT DID THEY DO HERE? WHERE HAVE THEY GONE? THESE AWESOME QUESTIONS CREATE THE BACKGROUND FOR THIS EXCITING NEW SAGA OF A DAY WHICH LIES AHEAD...THE DAY OF ANSWERS...

THE DAY OF THE GODS



CONCEIVED, WRITTEN, AND DRAWN BY **JACK KIRBY** / INKED BY **JOHN VERPOORTEN** / LETTERED BY **GASPAR COLORED BY GLYNIS WEIN**
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BENEATH THE HIGH PLAINS OF THE
ANDES, THIS SECRET PLACE, LIKE
ITS BUILDERS, HAS BEEN LOST
TO HISTORY... BUT NOW IT LIES
EXPOSED ONCE MORE --
DWARFING ITS DISCOVERERS
WITH CYCLOPEAN GRANDEUR...

MY EVERY
INSTINCT LED
ME TO THE
RIGHT
PASSAGES
DOCTOR DAMIAN!

I'LL RECORD
IT ON FILM
FOR YOU,
RIGHT NOW!

THE LEGENDARY
CHAMBER OF THE
GODS -- ITS DIMENSIONS
ARE OVERWHELMING!

IT'S ALL HERE AS
YOU PREDICTED,
FATHER -- THE
GALAXY PLAQUE
OF THE INCAS --
THEIR SPACE GOD
AND HIS CRAFT --
CARVED IN STONE...

EACH GREAT
ARTIFACT IN THE
GIANT CHAMBER
BRINGS HOME THE
ASTOUNDING
REVELATION OF A
VISIT FROM THE
STARS... THE
INTRUDERS
CONTINUE ON
IN BREATHLESS
WONDER...

OUTER SPACE
TECHNOLOGY
TRANSLATED IN TERMS
OF MYTHOLOGY--
INCREDIBLE!

THIS IS
UNMISTAKEABLY
A THREE PASSENGER
DESCENT VEHICLE!
IT SEEMS THE GODS
HAD A VARIETY OF
EQUIPMENT...

DOCTOR DAMIAN WAKES FROM THE SPELL OF THE AWE-INSPIRING TABLEAU AND SETS TO WORK...

QUICKLY, MARGO!! I MUST HAVE THE TAPE RECORDER... WHAT I HAVE TO SAY WILL ELECTRIFY THE SCIENTIFIC COMMUNITY!

THANKS TO IKE HARRIS, WE MAY HAVE MADE THE **GREATEST** ARCHEOLOGICAL FIND IN HISTORY!

--PERHAPS THE TRUE STORY OF ALL WHICH HAS GONE BEFORE!



THAT TAKES IN A LOT OF TERRITORY, IKE!

I REFER NOT ONLY TO HUMAN HISTORY, BUT ALSO TO DIVERGENT HUMAN HISTORY! THERE WERE OTHERS...

YOUR STATEMENT COVERS ALL OF HUMAN HISTORY! ARE YOU SERIOUS ABOUT THIS CLAIM YOU JUST MADE?



DO YOU REALIZE WHAT YOU'RE SAYING, YOUNG MAN?!! YOU'RE INTIMATING THAT THE HUMAN SPECIES IS SHARING THIS WORLD WITH -- RELATED FORMS OF LIFE!

THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT I'M SAYING, DOCTOR! HOMO SAPIENS HAS--RELATIVES!

THAT'S A WILD THEORY, IKE! YOU CAN'T BELIEVE IN SUCH A FANTASY!

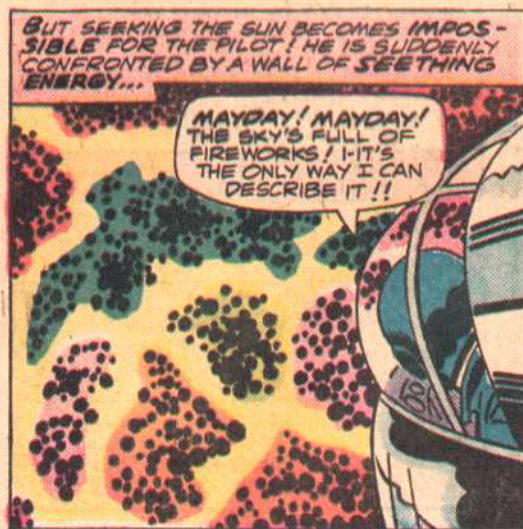


IKE HARRIS, YOU'VE BEEN A DISTURBING ENIGMA TO US EVER SINCE YOU JOINED OUR EFFORT TO SEEK OUT THIS CHAMBER--

YOU'RE WRONG ON BOTH COUNTS, DOCTOR! THIS IS NOT DRIVEL AND, I AM NOT A YOUNG MAN BY YOUR STANDARDS!

--BUT YOU NEVER STRUCK US AS BEING THE TYPE OF YOUNG MAN WHO IS GIVEN TO THIS KIND OF DRIVEL!





THEN, WHITE-HOT BOLTS ENVELOP THE PLANE...THE PILOT SCREAMS AS HIS UNSEEN COMPANIONS REACH HIM ONLY BY VOICE...

BLUE JAY!
WHAT'S HAPPENING!?
WHAT'S HAPPENING?!

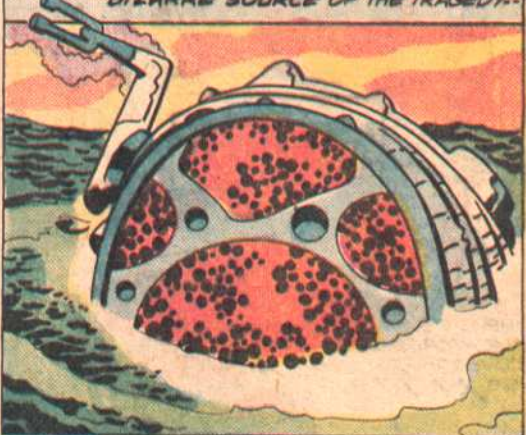
DON'T--
KNOW!!
GOT TO
EJECT!

LIKE MANY OTHERS WHO HAVE VANISHED IN AREAS OF MYSTERY ACROSS THE EARTH, THE PILOT IS SWALLOWED IN A FLARE-UP WHICH CONSUMES HIS PLANE AS WELL!

AN EXPLOSIVE BURST SENDS THE PILOT AND HIS SEAT HURLING FROM THE PLANE. BUT THERE'S NO ESCAPING THE BRIGHT AND TERRIBLE FORCE WHICH CLINGS TO ITS VICTIM...



THOSE WHO WILL COME TO SEARCH IN VAIN AND Ponder FRUITLESSLY ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED HERE, WILL NEVER SEE THE BIZARRE SOURCE OF THE TRAGEDY...



--NOR WILL THEY FIND ITS MAKERS AND THEIR HIDDEN, UNDERSEA SANCTUARIES...

LOWER THE
DISRUPTER!
IT IS DONE!

STAND BY TO
CLOSE THE
SILO COVER!
BE QUICK
ABOUT IT!

...FOR, IN AN ENCLAVE
BENEATH THE OCEAN
FLOOR...

THE AREA IS CLEAR
OF INTRUDERS, SIRE.
YOUR JOURNEY WILL
PROCEED WITHOUT
DETECTION FROM
ABOVE!

DON'T
LEAVE
YET,
DOG!

HERE WE FIND A GATHERING OF STRANGE BEINGS --
A ROYAL COURT OF THE GROTESQUE AND THE MIS-
SHAPEN -- THE INHABITANTS OF A DOMAIN
UNKNOWN TO MAN...

YOU'VE FORGOTTEN
IN WHOSE PRESENCE
YOU ARE, DOG!

HE RESEMBLES A HUMAN...
HE'S NOT LIKE US
DEVIANTS AT ALL!

WE'RE PRODUCING
MORE OF THESE
UNSTABLE CREATURES
EVERY DAY! NO TRUE
DEVARIANT WOULD FAIL
TO GROVEL BEFORE
THE RULING FAMILY!

I CRAVE YOUR
PARDON,
HIGH ONES!

DISMISS HIM, KRO!
HE REMINDS US OF
THE CURSE OF OUR
SPECIES THAT WE
CANNOT BREED IN
CONSISTENT FORM!

YET HE,
LIKE OUR-
SELVES,
IS A SEED
OF THE
GODS!

BEGONE,
GNAT!

YES,
SIRE!

THE GODS! THEIR RETURN IS ALMOST AT
HAND, KRO! YOU KNOW WHAT THAT MEANS!
THEY MAY SCOURGE US AS THEY DID IN
ANCIENT TIMES!

NEVER FEAR,
BROTHER TODE!
I SHALL FIND
THEIR COSMIC
BEACON AND
DESTROY IT!

THEN HASTEN ON YOUR
JOURNEY, KRO! GO TO
THE INCA CHAMBER AND
DO YOUR DUTY... THAT
BEACON MUST
NEVER BE
ACTIVATED!

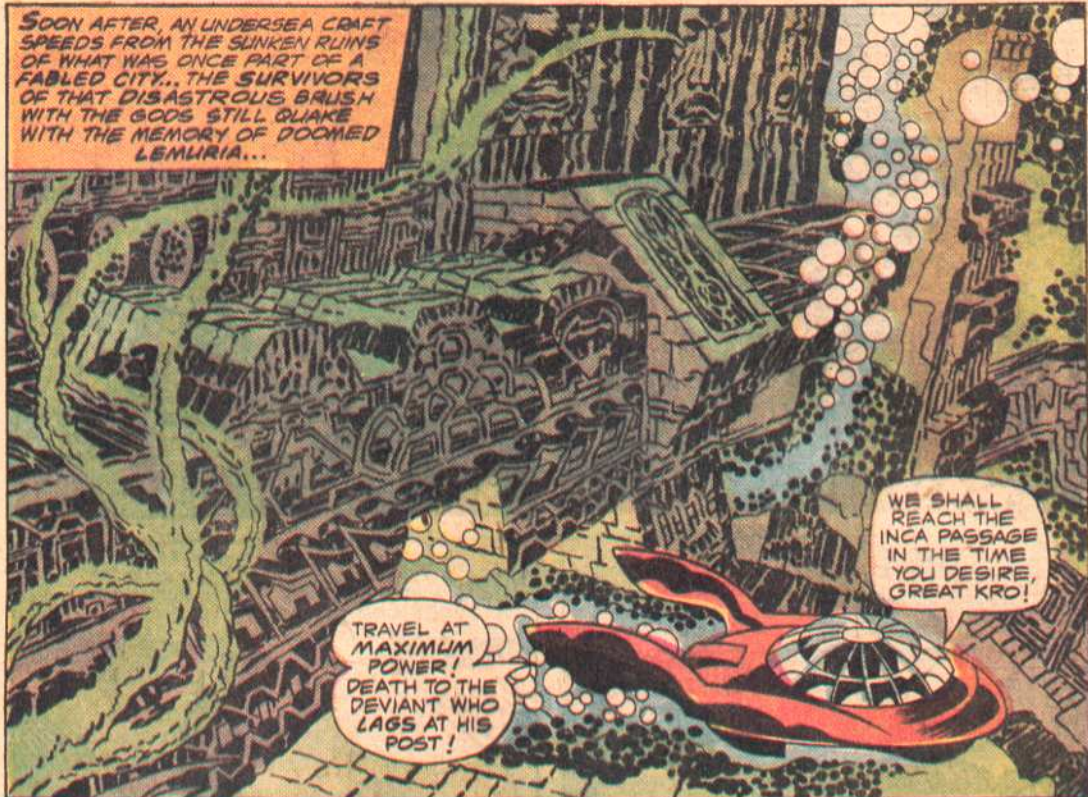
THE TRIP IS SHORT.
MY TASK WILL BE
ACCOMPLISHED
WITHIN THE HOUR!

COMPLACENT FOOL! YOU
SPEAK LIKE THE HARE WHO
SNEERS AT THE TORTOISE!
THE ETERNALS MAY YET
FIND THE BEACON
BEFORE WE DO!

NONSENSE!
THEY'VE FAILED
AS WE HAVE!
BUT THIS TIME,
IT IS WE WHO
SHALL SUCCEED!

THUS,
I TAKE
MY
LEAVE!

SOON AFTER, AN UNDERSEA CRAFT SPEEDS FROM THE SUNKEN RUINS OF WHAT WAS ONCE PART OF A FABLED CITY... THE SURVIVORS OF THAT DISASTROUS BRUSH WITH THE GODS STILL QUAKE WITH THE MEMORY OF DOOMED LEMURIA...



TRAVEL AT MAXIMUM POWER! DEATH TO THE DEVIANT WHO LAGS AT HIS POST!

WE SHALL REACH THE INCA PASSAGE IN THE TIME YOU DESIRE, GREAT KRO!

THE GOD CHAMBER, AT THIS MOMENT, HAS REVEALED YET ANOTHER SURPRISE. MARGO DAMIAN AND HER FATHER TURN FROM THEIR TAPE RECORDING TO STARE IN WIDE-EYED WONDER AS A GREAT WALL PARTS TO DISPLAY A MIRROR-IMAGE OF DEEP SPACE...

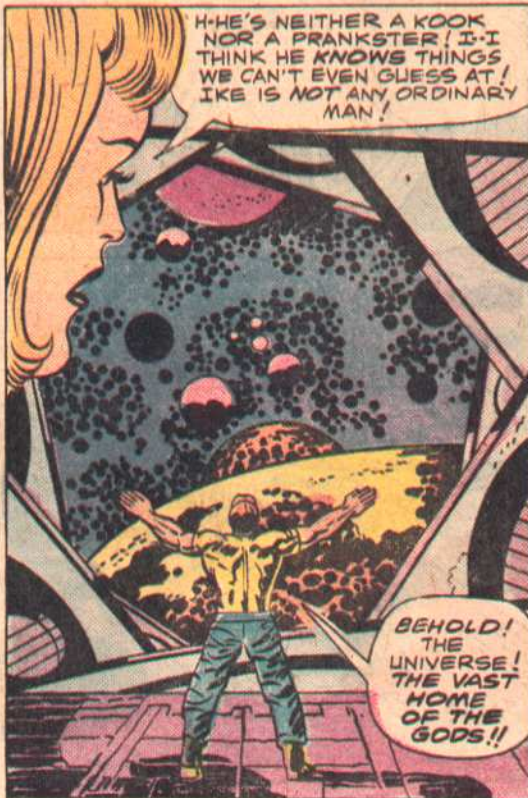
MARGO! LOOK! IKE HARRIS' AMAZING INSTINCTS HAVE UNCOVERED SOME SORT OF TELESCOPIC GADGETRY!

THE INCAS DON'T CONCERN ME NOW, DAD! I-IT'S IKE HARRIS WHO FRIGHTENS ME!

BUT THE INCAS WEREN'T ADVANCED ENOUGH TO HAVE BUILT ANYTHING THAT COMPLEX!



H-HE'S NEITHER A KOOK NOR A PRANKSTER! I-I THINK HE KNOWS THINGS WE CAN'T EVEN GUESS AT! IKE IS NOT ANY ORDINARY MAN!



BEHOLD! THE UNIVERSE! THE VAST HOME OF THE GODS!!

THERE THEY ROAM... THERE THEY LIVE!
IN THIS GREAT REFLECTOR WHICH THE
GODS LEFT WHEN THEY LAST DEPARTED,
THE DEVOTED INCA PEOPLE KEPT WATCH
FOR THEIR NEXT ARRIVAL... BUT THE
GODS NEVER RETURNED... AND THE
INCAS VANISHED FROM HISTORY!



KEEP GOING, IKE!
TELL US MORE!
BUT FIRST--TELL
US WHO YOU
REALLY ARE!

Y-YOU'RE
NOT
ONE
OF US--
A-ARE
YOU?



IKE HARRIS SEEMS TO PROTECT THE
SILENT POWER OF THE GOD CHAMBER
ITSELF! BOTH MARGO AND HER FATHER
REALIZE THAT HE'S SOMEHOW, A PART
OF THE AWESOME TRUTHS UNFOLDING
HERE...

SPARE US,
NOTHING!
WE'VE GOT
TO KNOW!

BEGIN WITH
YOUR NAME...
IT'S NOT
IKE HARRIS--
IS IT?

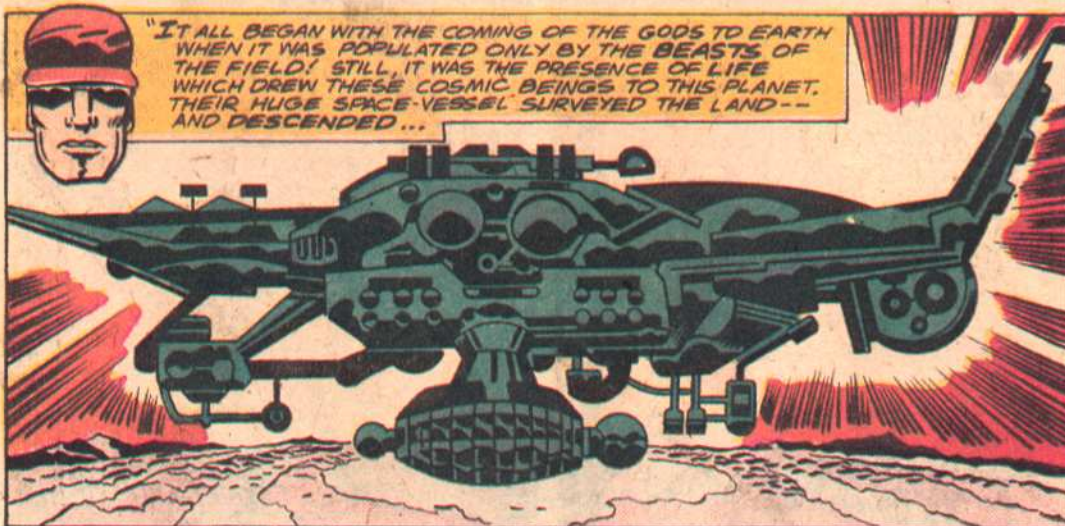
NOT
EXACTLY!



HOWEVER, IF YOU RUN BOTH WORDS
TOGETHER, YOU GET IKARIS!!
I AM NOT ONE OF YOUR SPECIES.
YET, WE ARE RELATED IN MANY
WAYS...



"IT ALL BEGAN WITH THE COMING OF THE GODS TO EARTH
WHEN IT WAS POPULATED ONLY BY THE BEASTS OF
THE FIELD! STILL, IT WAS THE PRESENCE OF LIFE
WHICH DREW THESE COSMIC BEINGS TO THIS PLANET.
THEIR HUGE SPACE-VESSEL SURVEYED THE LAND--
AND DESCENDED..."



IT WAS THEN THAT THE GODS PROCEEDED WITH THEIR MISSION...THEY CHOSE TO CHANGE THE DESTINY OF A LIFE-FORM NEW TO THE EVOLUTIONARY CHAIN--THE APE! A SPECIMEN WAS TRAPPED AND TAKEN ALIVE.



"ONLY THE INSTRUMENTS OF THE GODS COULD DO WHAT WAS DONE IN THAT MOMENTOUS TIME! TO THE APE WAS GIVEN THE COSMIC CHEMISTRY THAT WOULD FATHER THE RACES TO COME!"



IN THIS MANNER, THE DAWN APE BECAME THE COMMON ANCESTOR OF THREE POWERFUL NEW SPECIES...

"THE DEVIANT!"
AN EVER-CHANGING
AND DESTRUCTIVE
FAILURE.



STRUCTURALLY UNSTABLE, EACH NEW GENERATION OF DEVIANT APPEARED IN NEW AND MONSTROUS WAYS. HIS LOT WAS CONSTANT WAR.

"THE HUMAN!"
THIS SPECIES BRED WITH TRUE BALANCE OF STRUCTURE AND DISPOSITION. ALTHOUGH HE WAS A DESTROYER, THE HUMAN WAS CAPABLE OF BUILDING FOR PEACE.



HIS KIND WAS DESTINED TO INHERIT THE EARTH. HE BELONGED TO IT.

"THE ETERNAL!"
HE WAS MORE A CHILD OF THE GODS THAN OF EARTH... HE REACHED FOR THE UNIVERSE!



THE ETERNALS BRED FEW IN NUMBER AND WERE IMMUNE TO TIME AND DEATH! LIKE THE GODS, THEY LIVED APART FROM ALL OTHER LIVING BEINGS.

LIKE THE VOLATILE, ENERGETIC CREATURES THEY WERE, THE DEVIANTS TOOK TO THE EARTH'S INNER DEPTHS, WHERE THEY TOILED CEASELESSLY AT CREATING NEW WEAPONS! THE MYTHS OF MAN ARE FILLED WITH THE TERRORS INSPIRED BY CLASHES WITH DEVIANTS!



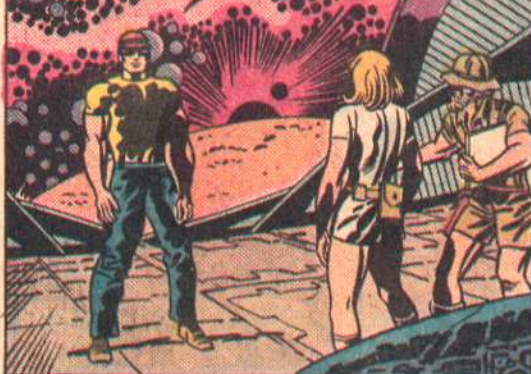
"THE ETERNALS TOOK TO THE HIGHEST MOUNTAIN TOPS. THEY PROBED THE UNIVERSE WITH THEIR MINDS AND DEVELOPED POWERS WHICH SURPASSED THOSE OF ALL OTHER EARTH-LIFE. THEY WERE REGARDED WITH AWE AND FEAR."

"AS FOR THE HUMAN, HE COLLIDED WITH NATURE, THE BEAST, AND HIS FELLOW MAN. HE SUBDUED THE EARTH AND MADE IT HIS HOME. ALTHOUGH HE STILL TEARS FOR PEACE, HE LIVES WITH DANGERS THAT WOULD DESTROY ALL HE HAS CREATED!"



DOCTOR DAMIAN AND HIS DAUGHTER ARE TRANSFIXED BY THE IMPACT OF IKARIS' WORDS...

THAT IS WHAT THE SPACE-GODS WROUGHT DURING THEIR VISIT TO EARTH.



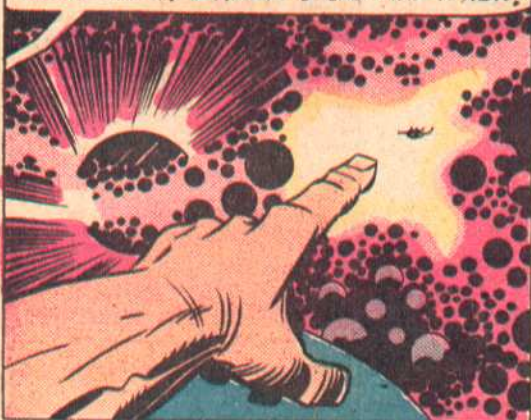
SO, THEY CAME BACK ONCE MORE--DURING THE REIGN OF THE INCAS--

THAT WAS ONE OF MANY VISITS! THE GODS HAVE... WAIT! THERE--ON THE REFLECTOR SCREEN!

--PERHAPS TO CHECK OUT THE RESULTS OF THEIR EXPERIMENTS!



THE SHIP OF THE GODS --LEAPING LIGHT YEARS IN SECONDS! IT'S ON ITS WAY TO EARTH! THE BEACON SHALL GUIDE THEM! I KNOW I CAN FIND IT NOW!



THE TENSION MOUNTS AS THE TIME APPROACHES! IN A WATER CHANNEL BENEATH THE ANDES, THE DEVIANT WAR CRAFT PLUNGES ONWARD...

FASTER! FASTER! WE SHOULD HAVE SIGHTED THE INCA PASSAGE BY NOW!

WE SHALL REACH IT IN A MOMENT, SIRE!



SOMEHOW, IN THE HEART OF THE ARROGANT DEVIANT, KRO, A SWELLING KNOT OF DOUBT IS DANGEROUSLY CLOSE TO BURSTING INTO FEAR... IS IT POSSIBLE THAT HE MAY BE TOO LATE?

THEY CAN'T DO IT! THE ETERNALS -- FOR ALL THEIR GREAT MIND-POWERS-- HAVE FAILED TO FIND THE BEACON!

BUT, SUPPOSE THEY TRAINED ONE OF THEIR KIND-- SHARPENED HIS SENSES TENFOLD FOR THE TASK! W-WHY HE COULD--!



SUDDENLY, A GIANT STONE HEAD LOOMS INTO VIEW.

WE'VE REACHED
THE INCA PASSAGE,
SIRE...THE MAMMOTH
WELL LIES AHEAD!



INSIDE THE HUGE DRAGON'S HEAD, THE WATER CHANNEL MERGES WITH A GIANT WELL... THERE, THE DEVIANT CRAFT BEGINS TO RISE...

TAKE
HER TO THE
SURFACE!
TIME GROWS
SHORT!

WE DID THE
BEST WE
COULD,
GREAT KRO...



THE UNDERSEA VESSEL NO SOONER BOBS TO THE SURFACE, THAN A FORWARD HATCH OPENS AND KRO EMERGES WITH AN ARMED ESCORT.



WE'RE IN THE
GOD CHAMBER!
ADVANCE AND
SEARCH FOR ANY
SIGN OF AN
ETERNAL!

REMEMBER, THEY
WOULD WELCOME
THE GODS, SHOULD
THEY RETURN.
SUCH ALLIES
COULD SPELL
OUR DOOM!!

BEEP BEEP BEEP BEEP

SIRE! LISTEN!
WE'VE BEEN
LINDONE! THAT
IS SURELY THE
SOUND OF THE
COSMIC BEACON!

BY THE FLAMING
PITS! AN ETERNAL
HAS BEEN AT
WORK HERE!

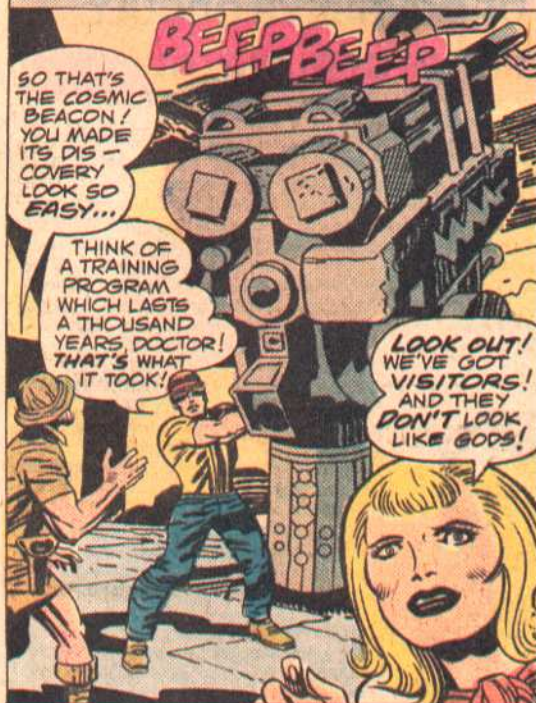


BUT THERE IS
STILL SOME TIME
LEFT! WE CAN
WASTE HIS
EFFORTS! WE
CAN DESTROY
THE COSMIC
BEACON!

I SEE THE FOE!
IT'S IKARIS OF
THE POLAR
MOUNTAINS!



THE GODS HAD SECURED THEIR SECRETS WELL...THEY'D DONE IT WITH MIND BLOCKS! BUT AN ETERNAL HAS BROKEN THROUGH AT LAST...THE BEACON IS ACTIVATED!



SO THAT'S THE COSMIC BEACON! YOU MADE ITS DISCOVERY LOOK SO EASY...

THINK OF A TRAINING PROGRAM WHICH LASTS A THOUSAND YEARS, DOCTOR! THAT'S WHAT IT TOOK!

LOOK OUT! WE'VE GOT VISITORS! AND THEY DON'T LOOK LIKE GODS!

KILL THE HUMANS! POUND IKARIS WITH HIGH VOLTAGE! WE CAN'T HARM HIM, BUT WE CAN KEEP HIM BUSY!!

THEN, DESTROY THE BEACON!!



IKARIS REACTS WITH LIGHTNING SPEED! HIS MIND SEIZES THE VERY ATOMS OF THE AIR AND MOLDS THEM INTO AN IMPENETRABLE SHIELD...



YOU DEVIANTS ARE LATE-- MUCH TOO LATE TO STOP THE ARRIVAL OF THE GODS!

THEY'RE DEVIANTS! --THE DESTRUCTIVE SPECIES HE TALKED ABOUT!

THE ETERNAL REMOVES HIS CAP AND GLASSES TO REVEAL THE FEATURES WHICH MARK HIS KIND... IT IS THE EYES THAT RELEASE THE POWERS STORED IN THE DYNAMICS OF THE ETERNAL BRAIN! IT IS THE EYES WHICH THE DEVIANTS FEAR!!



ONE CANNOT MAKE PEACE WITH YOUR SPECIES! IF YOU FIND REASON IN WAR--THEN I SAY-- TO BATTLE!



AT THAT MOMENT, THE ENTIRE PLANET SEEMS TO SHAKE FROM A MIGHTY SOUND WHICH HASN'T BEEN HEARD SINCE ANCIENT TIMES!

A GIGANTIC SHADOW DARKENS THE PLAIN WHERE THE RUINS STAND. SOMETHING WHICH HAS SHATTERED TIME AND SPACE TO FIND A PEBBLE CALLED "EARTH"... NOW DESCENDS WITH OVER-POWERING MAJESTY!!



THE BATTLE IN THE GOD CHAMBER IS HALTED AS QUICKLY AS IT BEGAN. SHOCKED INTO SILENCE, THE COMBATANTS SLOWLY EMERGE FROM THE RUIN.

TOO LATE! I'VE FOUGHT IN VAIN! THE GODS HAVE FOUND US!

IKARIS! I--I CAN'T MAKE IT OUT IS IT--?

WHAT HE SAYS IS TRUE! THE GODS ARE LANDING!



THE WITNESSES TO THIS EVENT STARE AT WHAT IS HAPPENING--UNABLE TO ABSORB WHAT THIS MEANS TO THEIR LIVES, TO THE EXISTENCE OF ALL LIFE ON EARTH! FOR, THE GODS TOWER OVER TIME ITSELF! THEY CAN ONLY BE MET WITH HUSHED SILENCE.



THEN--THE SILENCE IS BROKEN.

THE DEVIANTS SHALL FIGHT TO THE LAST.

HOW CAN YOU FIGHT WHAT YOU HAVEN'T YET SEEN?

WE SHALL SEE THEM NOW-- AND IN DOING SO, LEARN MORE ABOUT OURSELVES THEN WE HAVE EVER KNOWN!



IT IS SOMEHOW FITTING THAT REPRESENTATIVES OF EARTH'S THREE DOMINANT RACES ARE ON HAND TO MEET THE MASTER IMAGE IMPRINTED ON THEIR GENES. WHAT DO THE GODS LOOK LIKE? WHAT CAN THEY DO TO AN UNSUSPECTING EARTH?

FOR THE SAKE OF THE GODS-- GET THE NEXT ISSUE!! READ THE

Celestials From Space!