

WHEN DR. JANE FOSTER LIFTS THE MYSTIC HAMMER MJOLNIR, SHE IS TRANSFORMED INTO THE GODDESS OF THUNDER, THE MIGHTY THOR! HER ENEMIES ARE MANY, AS ASGARD DESCENDS FURTHER INTO CHAOS AND WAR THREATENS TO SPREAD THROUGHOUT THE TEN REALMS. YET HER GREATEST BATTLE WILL BE AGAINST A FAR MORE PERSONAL FOE: THE CANCER THAT IS KILLING HER MORTAL FORM...



WITH THE HELP OF THE RE-FORMED LEAGUE OF REALMS, THOR FREED THE LIGHT ELVES FROM THE RULE OF THE DARK ELF KING, MALEKITH. BUT THE WAR OF THE REALMS HAS JUST BEGUN...

RETURNING TO ASGARDIA TO REST, JANE WAS INSTEAD CONFRONTED BY CUL, THE ACTING REGENT OF ASGARD. CLAIMING CONCERN FOR HER ABSENCES FROM THE CONGRESS OF WORLDS, CUL GAVE HER A WEEK TO RID HERSELF OF HER CANCER AND RESUME HER DUTIES--OR HE WOULD REMOVE HER FROM ASGARDIA.

BUT THE SHI'AR EMPIRE BEAT HIM TO IT. WITHOUT WARNING, GLADIATOR AND HIS IMPERIAL GUARD INVADED ASGARDIA AND KIDNAPPED THOR, TELEPORTING HER TO THE M'KRAAN PALACE--WHERE SHE FOUND HERSELF AT THE FEET OF THE GODS OF THE SHI'AR.

THE ASGARD/SHI'AR WAR, PART TWO: THE CHALLENGE OF THE GODS

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SOMEWHERE BEYOND THE EDGES OF SPACE, PAST WHERE EVEN THE STARS DARE GO...

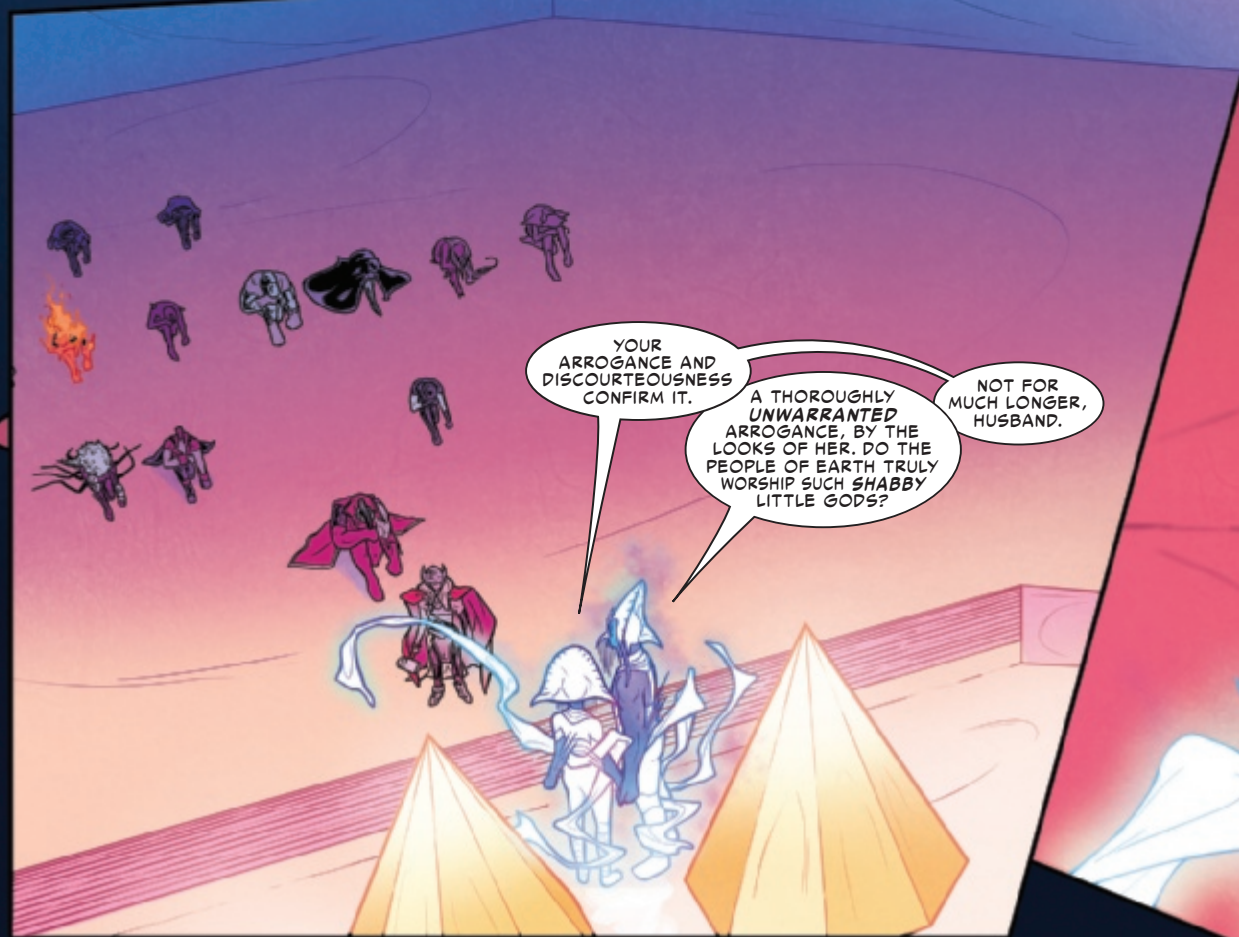
...LIES M'KRAAN PALACE.

THE MOST SACRED SITE IN ALL CREATION TO THE SHI'AR. FOR THIS IS WHERE THEIR GODS LIVE...

YOUR ARROGANCE AND DISCOURTEOUSNESS CONFIRM IT.

A THOROUGHLY **UNWARRANTED** ARROGANCE, BY THE LOOKS OF HER, DO THE PEOPLE OF EARTH TRULY WORSHIP SUCH **SHABBY** LITTLE GODS?

NOT FOR MUCH LONGER, HUSBAND.



...AND OH
WHAT GODS
THEY ARE.

IF YOU WERE
LOOKING FOR
SOMEONE TO **KNEEL**,
YOU ABDUCTED
THE WRONG GOD.

NO, I
BELIEVE WE
HAVE THE
RIGHT GOD.

WE ARE **SHARRA**
AND **K'YTHRI**, THE
STARMOTHER AND THE
FATHER OF LIGHT, CREATORS
OF ALL SPACE AND TIME,
SUPREME DEITIES OF THE
ONE TRUE COSMIC
CHOSEN PEOPLE, THE
EVERLASTING **SHI'AR**.

WE BREATHE
NEBULAE TO LIFE.
WE WEEP COMETS
AND SPEAK WITH
THE VOICE OF A
QUADRILLION
SUPERNOVAE.

AND TODAY,
THOR OF ASGARD,
WE WILL TEACH YOU
WHAT IT TRULY MEANS
TO BE A **GOD**.



...YOU WISH TO TEACH ME WHAT IT MEANS TO BE A...

THREE DAYS AGO, WHILE YOU WERE FIDDLING WITH YOUR COMETS, I WAS HOLDING A MORTAL WOMAN IN MY ARMS AS THE CANCER THAT HAD RAVAGED HER BRAIN SLOWLY CONSUMED WHAT WAS LEFT OF HER LIFE.

ALL I COULD DO WAS LISTEN AS SHE PRAYED. SHE PRAYED TO ALL THE GODS.



AND THERE ARE SO VERY MANY OF THEM SPREAD ACROSS THIS COSMOS, ARE THERE NOT? AND OH, HOW EACH LOVES TO BOAST OF THEIR OWN MAJESTY AND ALMIGHTINESS.

YET WHERE IS THAT WOMAN NOW? TELL ME, IN WHAT HEAVEN DOES SHE RESIDE?



none of them, because no god bothered to listen or care.

IF THAT IS WHAT YOU THINK IT MEANS TO BE A GOD, THEN YOU AND ALL YOUR TEACHINGS ARE WELCOME TO DO AS THAT POOR WOMAN DID.

AND VANISH FROM THESE REALMS FOREVER.

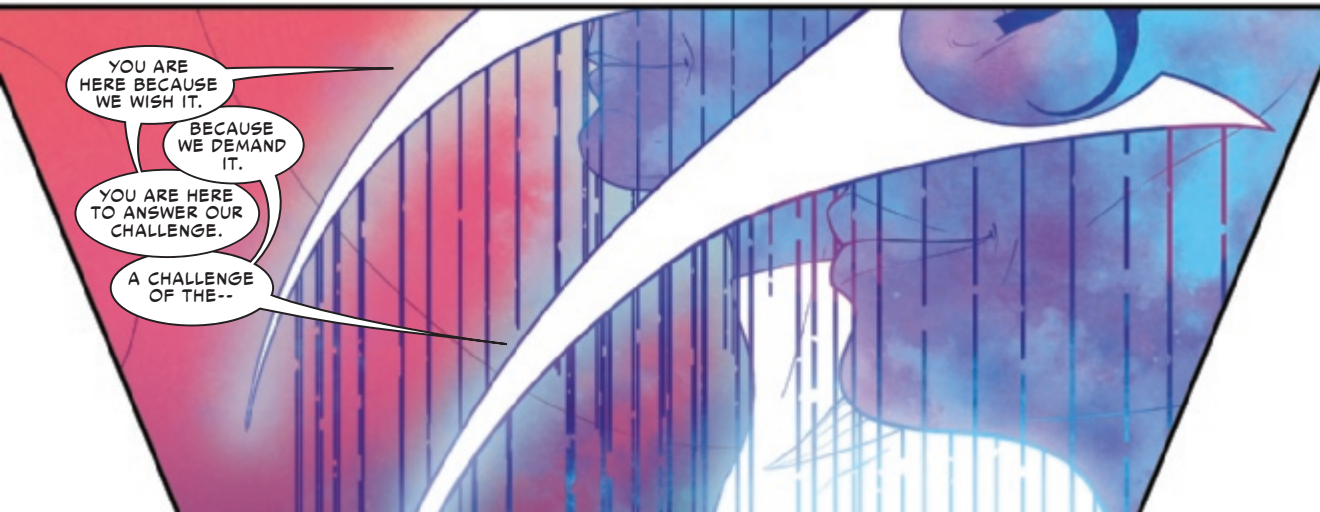


WHAT IN THE NAME OF THE IMPERIUM IS SHE GOING ON ABOUT? SOME EXPIRED MORTAL? IS SHE FEEBLE-MINDED, DO YOU THINK?

IT WOULD APPEAR SO. PERHAPS WE SHOULD SPEAK MORE SLOWLY.

THE ONLY THING I WISH TO LEARN FROM YOU IS WHY. WHY AM I HERE? I HAVE DONE NOTHING TO THESE SHI'AR.

YET.



YOU ARE HERE BECAUSE WE WISH IT.

BECAUSE WE DEMAND IT.

YOU ARE HERE TO ANSWER OUR CHALLENGE.

A CHALLENGE OF THE--



MY ANSWER IS NO. NOW IF YOU WILL EXCUSE ME.

OR EVEN IF YOU WILL NOT.



VERY WELL, BUT SINCE YOU SEEM TO CARE SO MUCH ABOUT DEAD LITTLE MORTALS, I DO HOPE YOU REALIZE HOW MANY YOU'LL BE LEAVING IN YOUR WAKE BY WALKING AWAY.

WHAT DID YOU SAY?

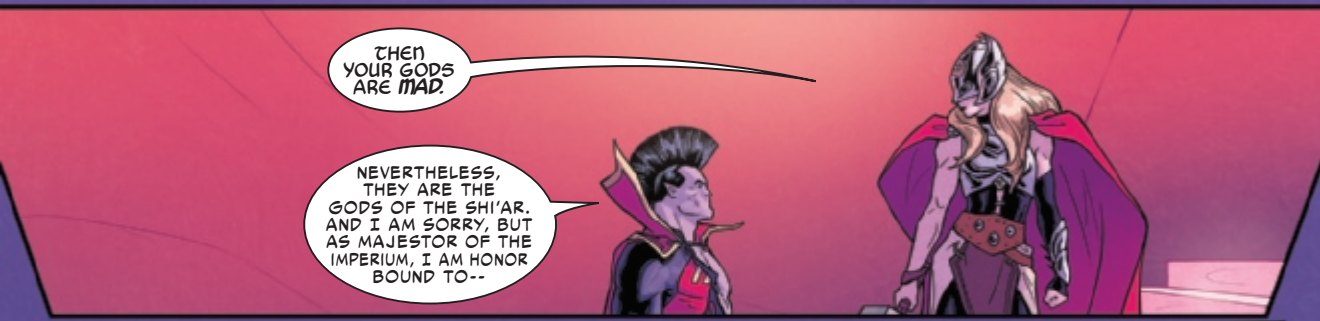
I'M AFRAID IT'S TRUE, MY LADY THOR.



'TIS JUST THOR. I AM NOT NOW, NOR WILL I EVER BE, "YOUR LADY."

THE GODS TELL IT TRUE, THOR. THERE ARE THREE SHI'AR SUPERDESTROYER STARSHIPS IN EARTH'S ORBIT AS WE SPEAK, HEAVILY CLOAKED AND FULLY ARMED.

IF YOU DO NOT ANSWER THIS CHALLENGE, THEY HAVE ORDERS TO OBLITERATE THE ENTIRE PLANET.



THEN YOUR GODS ARE MAD.

NEVERTHELESS, THEY ARE THE GODS OF THE SHI'AR. AND I AM SORRY, BUT AS MAJESTOR OF THE IMPERIUM, I AM HONOR BOUND TO--



GHHK!