

A total obsession with power drives him — to control the forces of the universe.
He is the Mad Titan. He is...

THANOS



Thanos has resumed his place as head of the Black Quadrant, but left his throne empty as he ransacks centers of healing across the galaxy: the destroyer of worlds is himself being destroyed by sickness.

Desperate for a cure, Thanos finally approached his father, Mentor, in the scientific haven of Gilgrath—but when Mentor provided no assistance, Thanos murdered him. Immediately afterward, the Imperial Guard of the Shi'ar arrived with an unlikely mission: to place Thanos under arrest.

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THANOS No. 3, March 2017. Published Monthly by MARVEL WORLDWIDE, INC., a subsidiary of MARVEL ENTERTAINMENT, LLC. OFFICE OF PUBLICATION: 135 West 50th Street, New York, NY 10020. BULK MAIL POSTAGE PAID AT NEW YORK, NY AND AT ADDITIONAL MAILING OFFICES. © 2017 MARVEL. No similarity between any of the names, characters, persons, and/or institutions in this magazine with those of any living or dead person or institution is intended, and any such similarity which may exist is purely coincidental. \$3.99 per copy in the U.S. (GST #R127092052) in the direct market; Canadian Agreement #0039537. Printed in the USA. Subscription rate (U.S. dollars) for 12 issues: U.S. \$26.99; Canada \$42.99; Foreign \$42.99. POSTMASTER: SEND ALL ADDRESS CHANGES TO THANOS, C/O MARVEL SUBSCRIPTIONS P.O. BOX 727 NEW HYDE PARK, NY 11040. TELEPHONE # (888) 511-5480. FAX # (347) 537-2649. subscriptions@marvel.com. ALAN FINE, President, Marvel Entertainment; DAN BUCKLEY, President, TV, Publishing & Brand Management; JOE QUESADA, Chief Creative Officer; TOM BREVOORT, SVP of Publishing; DAVID BOGART, SVP of Business Affairs & Operations, Publishing & Partnership; C.B. CEBULSKI, VP of Brand Management & Development, Asia; DAVID GABRIEL, SVP of Sales & Marketing, Publishing; JEFF YOUNGQUIST, VP of Production & Special Projects; DAN CARR, Executive Director of Publishing Technology; ALEX MORALES, Director of Publishing Operations; SUSAN CRESPI, Production Manager; STAN LEE, Chairman Emeritus. For information regarding advertising in Marvel Comics or on Marvel.com, please contact Vit DeBellis, Integrated Sales Manager, at vdeb@marvel.com. For Marvel subscription inquiries, please call 888-511-5480. Manufactured between 12/23/2016 and 01/09/2017 by QUAD/GRAPHICS WASECA, WASECA, MN, USA.

DR. AURILIUS OF TITAN.

CHILDHOOD ACQUAINTANCE.

DID I KNOW HIM? IS THAT WHAT YOU WANT TO KNOW?

I KNEW HIM, ALL RIGHT. A LONG TIME AGO. WE WERE BOTH JUST BOYS.

THAT'S THE THING MOST PEOPLE CAN'T UNDERSTAND. HE WAS *JUST A BOY* ONCE. BEFORE HE BECAME THE "WORLD KILLER." BEFORE HE BECAME THE "MAD TITAN," HE WAS JUST ANOTHER BOY NAMED THANOS.

GRANTED, HE WAS A DEVIANT. SO IT WAS NEVER LIKE HE WAS *JUST* LIKE THE REST OF US CHILDREN OF TITAN. HE WAS ALWAYS AN OUTSIDER. HE LOOKED DIFFERENT. HE TALKED DIFFERENTLY. AND OF COURSE HIS FATHER WAS THE GREAT MENTOR. BUT EVEN SO...

...EVEN SO, HE WAS STILL JUST A BOY. WE PLAYED TOGETHER. WE STUDIED TOGETHER. AND THEN, AS WE GREW A BIT OLDER, *SOMETHING CHANGED* IN HIM.

HE BECAME COLDER, EVEN MORE WITHDRAWN. LOOKING BACK NOW, I SEE THAT THIS WAS WHEN IT STARTED. THE KILLING.

SO, HE MAY HAVE STARTED AS JUST ANOTHER BOY, BUT THE BOY SOON BECAME A *MONSTER*.

CHILDREN DISAPPEARED. INQUESTS SHOWED NO WRONGDOING. BUT NOW...NOW IT SEEMS OBVIOUS THAT IT WAS THANOS' DOING.

IT WAS NOT LONG AFTER THAT HIS OWN MOTHER WAS *BUTCHERED*. POOR SUI-SAN...

I LEFT TITAN TO STUDY ON SPARTAX WHEN I WAS SEVENTEEN. MY ENTIRE FAMILY STAYED BEHIND.

SO I WAS NOT ON TITAN WHEN *THANOS RETURNED*. I WAS NOT THERE WHEN HE *DESTROYED* MY HOME AND EVERYONE ON IT.

SO, YOU ASK ME IF I KNEW THANOS? YES, I KNEW HIM. I KNEW HIM AS A BOY. BUT HE IS NOT A BOY ANY LONGER. NO...

THERE ARE DAYS-- THERE ARE DAYS WHEN I WISH THAT I HAD BEEN.

A close-up, high-contrast illustration of Thanos' face. He has a purple, wrinkled complexion and glowing blue eyes. He is wearing a golden helmet with a crest. The background is a dark, textured pattern.

"...HE IS EVIL
ITSELF."

A large action scene showing Thanos in the foreground, looking towards a city. In the background, Iron Man is flying through the air, and other figures are engaged in combat. The scene is filled with fire and destruction.

EVIL ITSELF? PERHAPS,
ONE THING IS CERTAIN,
HOWEVER, THANOS IS
CERTAINLY THE MOST
FEARED BEING IN THE
UNIVERSE...

...BUT THE SHI'AR IMPERIAL
GUARD WOULD BE A CLOSE
SECOND.

SINCE ITS FOUNDATION, THE SHI'AR IMPERIUM HAS PRIDED ITSELF ON ITS VAST FLEETS AND LEGIONS OF WARRIORS.

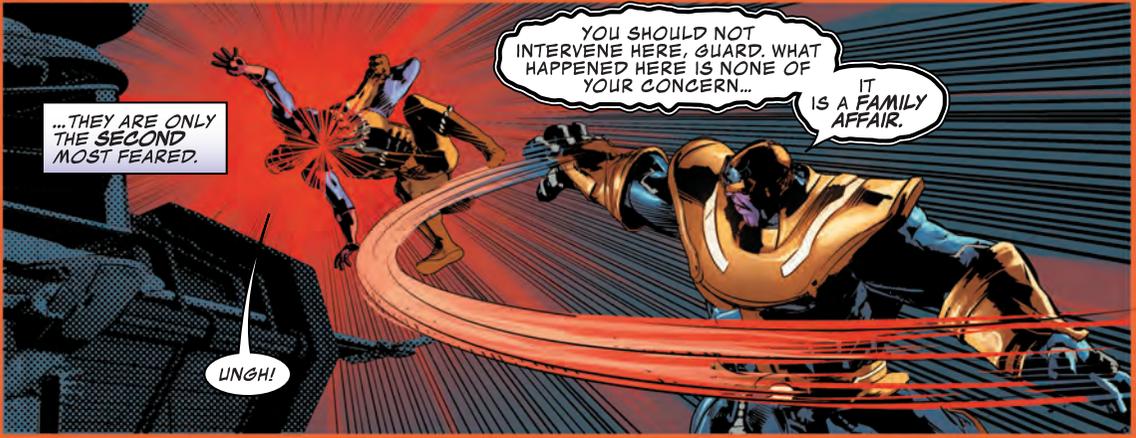
AT THE PINNACLE OF ITS MILITARY POWER IS THE ELITE IMPERIAL GUARD, A REGIMENT OF META-POWERED BEINGS WITH A DIVERSE AND COLORFUL MEMBERSHIP RECRUITED FROM DOZENS OF WORLDS.

FANG, YOU'RE WITH ME. HIT HIM LOW!

YOU'VE GOT IT, SMASHER. IT'S WHAT I DO BEST.

BUT AS I SAID...

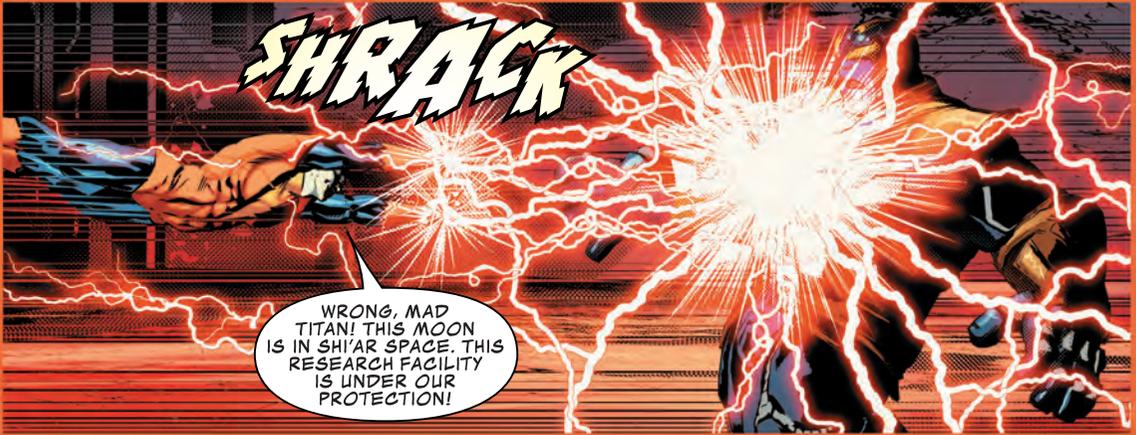




...THEY ARE ONLY THE SECOND MOST FEARED.

YOU SHOULD NOT INTERVENE HERE, GUARD. WHAT HAPPENED HERE IS NONE OF YOUR CONCERN... IT IS A FAMILY AFFAIR.

UNGH!



SHRACK

WRONG, MAD TITAN! THIS MOON IS IN SHI'AR SPACE. THIS RESEARCH FACILITY IS UNDER OUR PROTECTION!



AND WHAT INADEQUATE PROTECTION IT IS, FLASHFIRE.

GKK!



I'LL GIVE YOU ALL ONE CHANCE TO RETREAT. ONE CHANCE TO SAVE YOURSELVES.

H-HERE'S THE THING, THANOS...