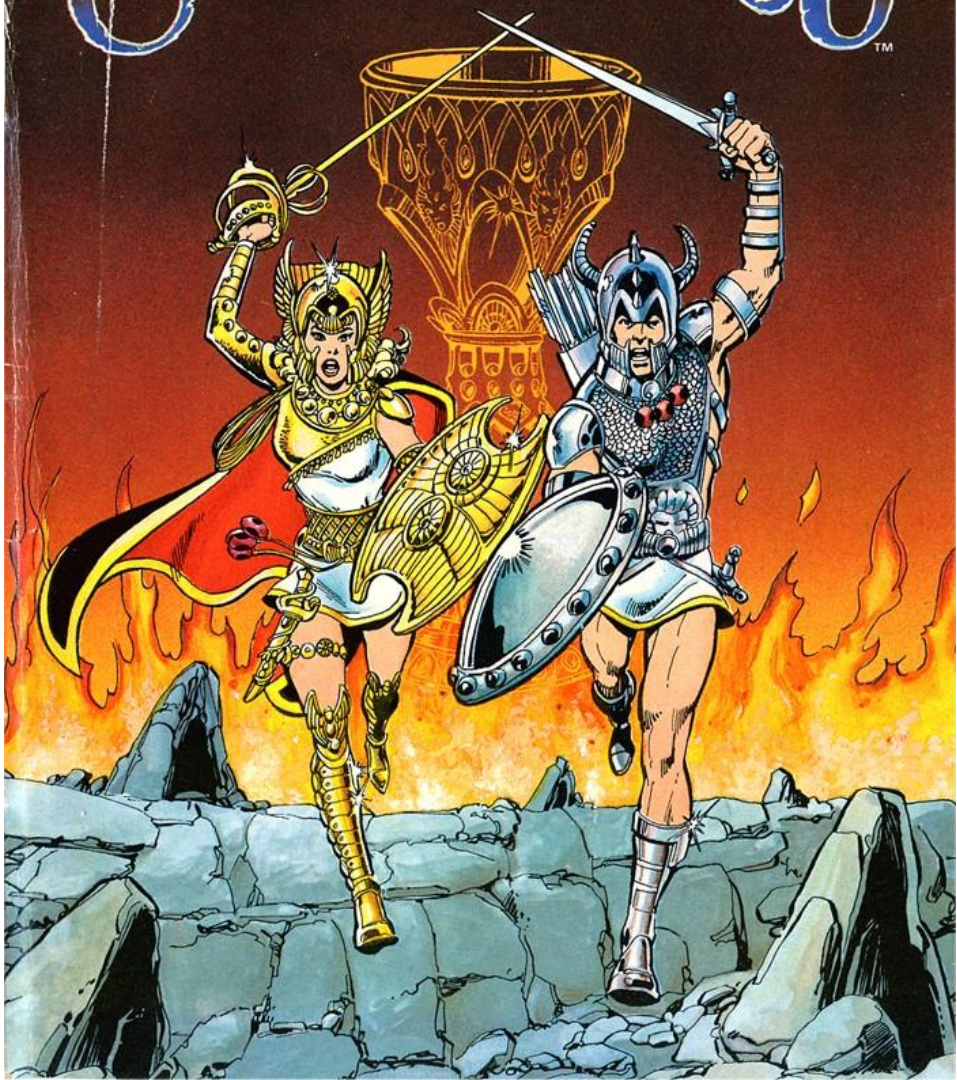




<http://www.replacementdoes.com>

Swordquest²



FIREWORLD™

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...

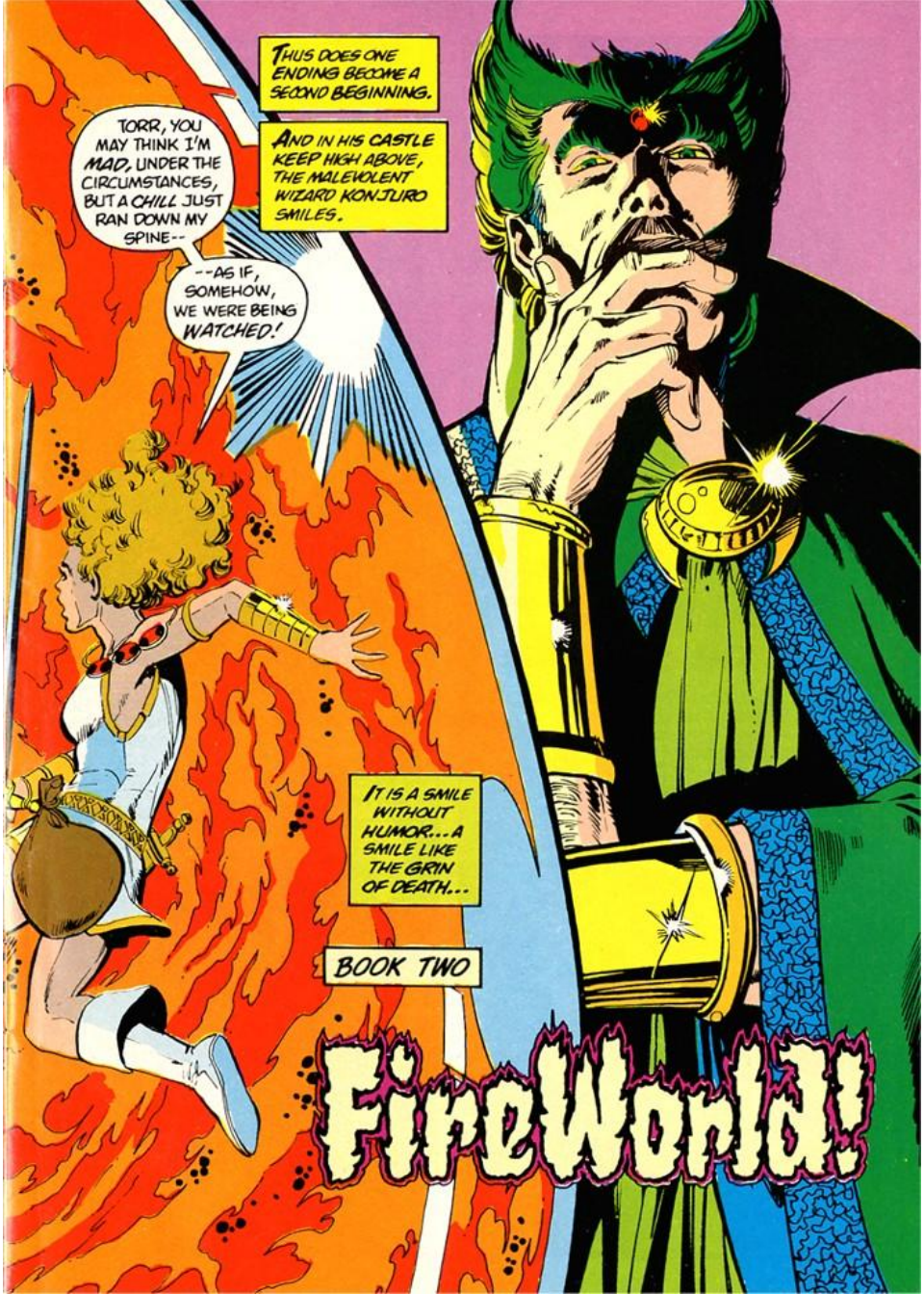
SO NATURALLY, BROTHER
AND SISTER HAVE PLUNGED
HEADLONG AFTER IT.*

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."



THIS 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--

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

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

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

BOOK TWO

FireWorld!



...YET A SMILE THAT
SWIFTLY FADES, WHEN--

WELL, KONJURO?
HAVE YOU LOCATED
THOSE TWO THIEVING
WHELPS YET?

OF COURSE, MY LORD
TYRANNUS. THE POWERS
OF KONJURO ARE NOT
LONGS MOCKED...BY
ANYONE.



IF THAT WRY COMMENT WAS
MEANT FOR YOUR KING, WIZARD,
BEST KEEP A CIVIL TONGUE IN
YOUR HEAD.

WHERE ARE THEY? HAS
YOUR DEMON DISPATCHED
THEM YET?

ALAS, THEY
ARE BEYOND THE
REACH OF MY
POWERS...FOR
THE MOMENT,
AT LEAST...

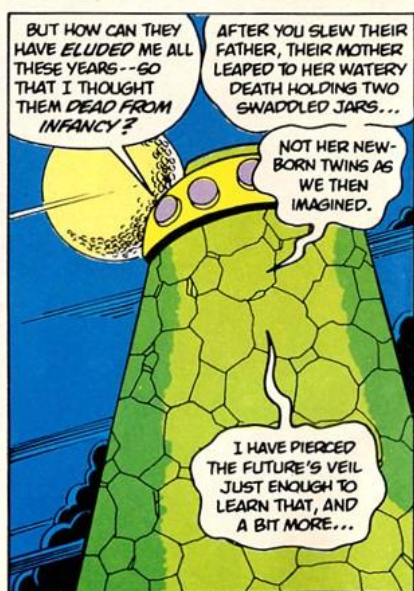


...IN THE PLACE CALLED FIREWORLD, WHICH LIES
FAR BENEATH OUR VERY FEET!

AND IS IT AS YOU SAID?

ARE THEY INDEED THE GOLD-
HAIRCED ONES WHO, 'TWA'S
PROPHESIED, WILL CLAIM MY
VERY THRONE, WITH "A SWORD
SHINING BRIGHTLY AS
SUMMER'S SUN"?

AS YOU CLAIMED
THEIR PARENTS' LIVES,
AYE, MY KING.



BUT HOW CAN THEY
HAVE ELUDED ME ALL
THESE YEARS--SO
THAT I THOUGHT
THEM DEAD FROM
INFANCY?

AFTER YOU SLEW THEIR
FATHER, THEIR MOTHER
LEAPED TO HER WATERY
DEATH HOLDING TWO
SWADDLED JARS...

NOT HER NEW-
BORN TWINS AS
WE THEN
IMAGINED.

I HAVE PIERCED
THE FUTURE'S VEIL
JUST ENOUGH TO
LEARN THAT, AND
A BIT MORE...

"...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 **WARRIORS** 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..."

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

TORR...!?

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

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

IT SOUNDED LIKE--



LOOK!

IT--IT CAN'T BE--!

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



"--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."

LET THIS BE A LESSON TO ALL YOU PEASANTS!

CLEAR THE WAY WHEN THE KING'S GUARDS COME RIDING--OR SUFFER THE CONSEQUENCES OF YOUR FOLLY!

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



"...TORN BETWEEN WHAT THEY SAW, AND DESIRED TO DO..."

"...AND THE YEARS OF ADMONITION FROM THEIR ROSTER 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...!

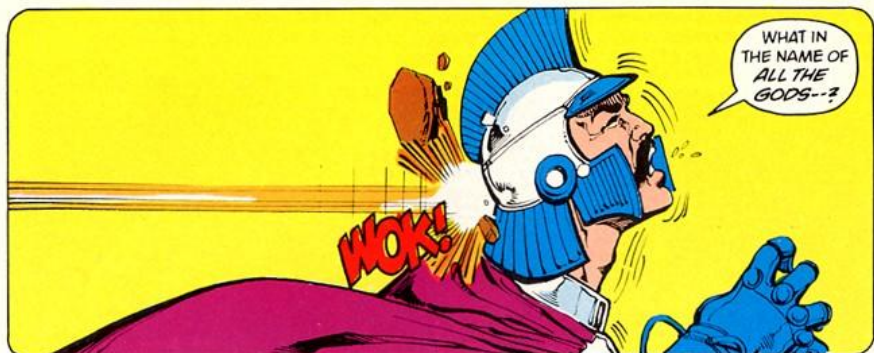
MOTHER...

"BUT OF COURSE HE DID NOT."

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

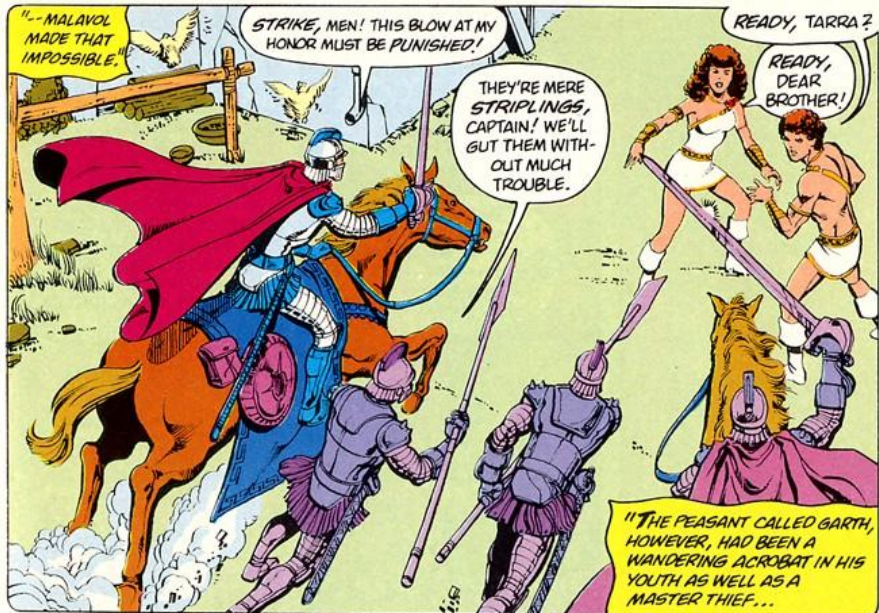
FOR, I'LL BE
RIDING BACK
THROUGH HERE
IN A LITTLE
WHILE...

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



"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.





"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!"

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

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
EVERYWHERE-- YET
FROM INSIDE MY
OWN BRAIN--!

I
HEAR IT,
TOO.

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

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!

TYRANNUS!

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!

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

-- 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.

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!

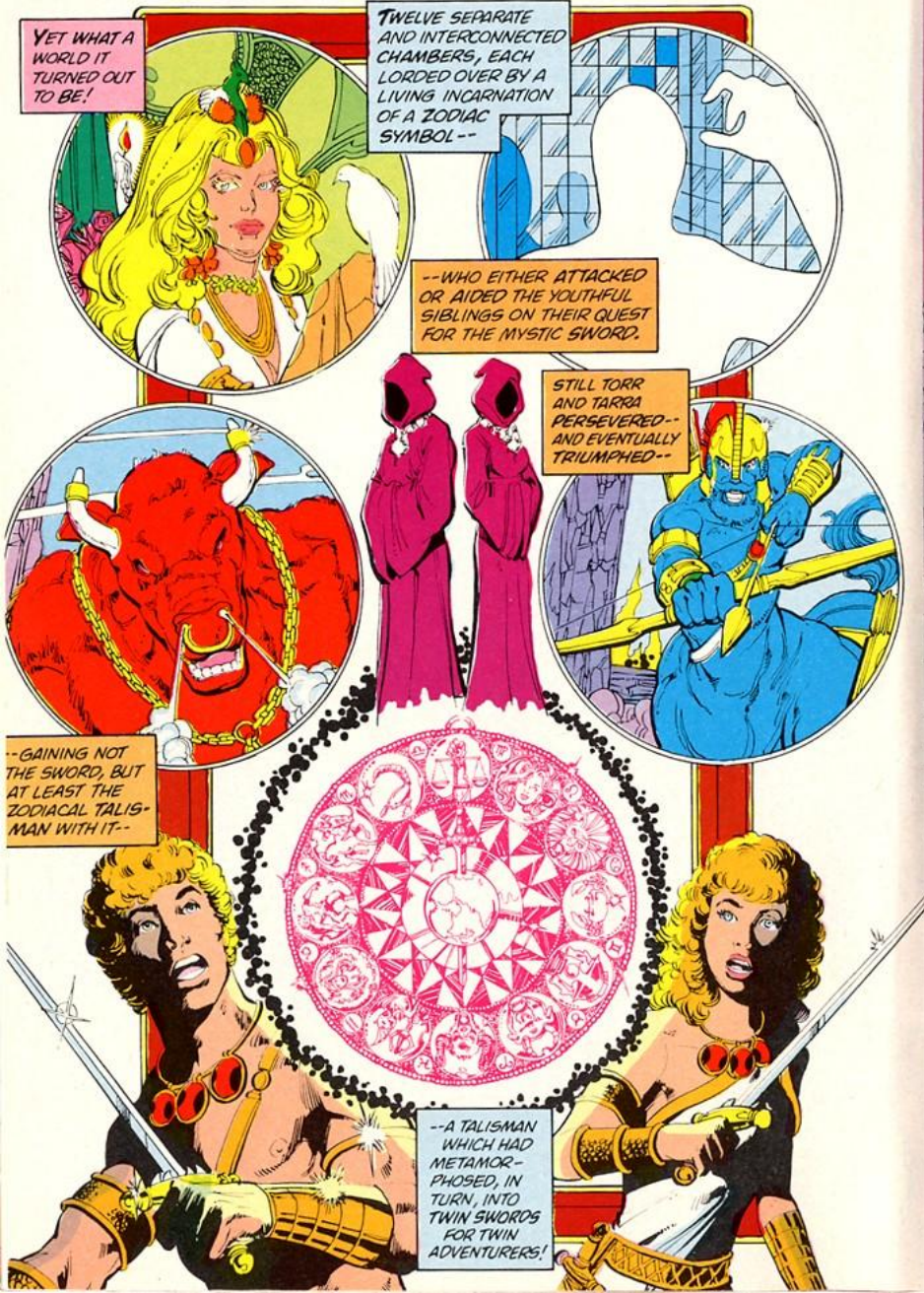
TWELVE SEPARATE
AND INTERCONNECTED
CHAMBERS, EACH
LORDED OVER BY A
LIVING INCARNATION
OF A ZODIAC
SYMBOL--

--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 EVENTU-
ALLY WIND UP
IN MY ROYAL
HANDS, WHERE
IT BELONGS--

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.

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!

AS, NO LONGER WITHIN
EVEN SORCEROUS EAR-
SHOT 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.

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--



NO TIME
FOR THAT!

THIS WAY LIES AS
OPEN AS ANY!
COME ON!

WAIT!
THAT PATH
LOOKS EVEN
WORSE TO--



WILL YOU
QUIT ARGUING,
AND FOLLOW
ME?

I WILL
NOT!

YOU'RE CONSTANTLY
ORDERING ME AROUND--
AND I'M SICK AND TIRED
OF IT, DO YOU HEAR ME?



I DON'T CLAIM TO
KNOW WHICH WAY IS
SAFER, OR COOLER,
OR WHATEVER--

-- BUT I'M GOING THIS
WAY, AND YOU CAN DECIDE
IF YOU WANT TO FOLLOW
ME FOR A CHANGE!

TO BLAZES
WITH YOU
THEN!

I'LL GO
MY OWN
WAY!



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.

'T'WILL THEN BE
NO TRICK FOR A
PROFESSIONAL
THIEF LIKE YOUR-
SELF 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...

SO HOT--AND GETTING
HOTTER EVERY MINUTE!

CAN'T SEE FAR ENOUGH
AHEAD TO KNOW IF I TOOK
THE RIGHT PATH OR NOT!

WHY DID I
GET SO PUSHY
WITH TARRA,
ANYWAY?

WE SHOULD'VE
STUCK TOGETHER,
NOT SEPARATED.

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

WE KEPT
THEM WHEN WE
JUMPED, AND
PERHAPS--

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

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

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

YOU ARE
CORRECT,
TORR.

MENTARRA
IS EVEN NOW
APPEARING TO
YOUR WANDERING
SISTER--

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

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?

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!

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!

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.

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

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

WH-WHAT--?

IT'S NOT REALLY A CAVE AT ALL--

A vibrant, comic-style illustration of a treasure chamber. A blonde woman in a white dress and red bow stands in the center, looking surprised. The room is filled with gold coins, jewels, and ornate furniture. A large red and yellow umbrella is in the upper left, and a large red and yellow mask is in the center right. A speech bubble from the woman says, "--IT'S A TREASURE CHAMBER!".

--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!

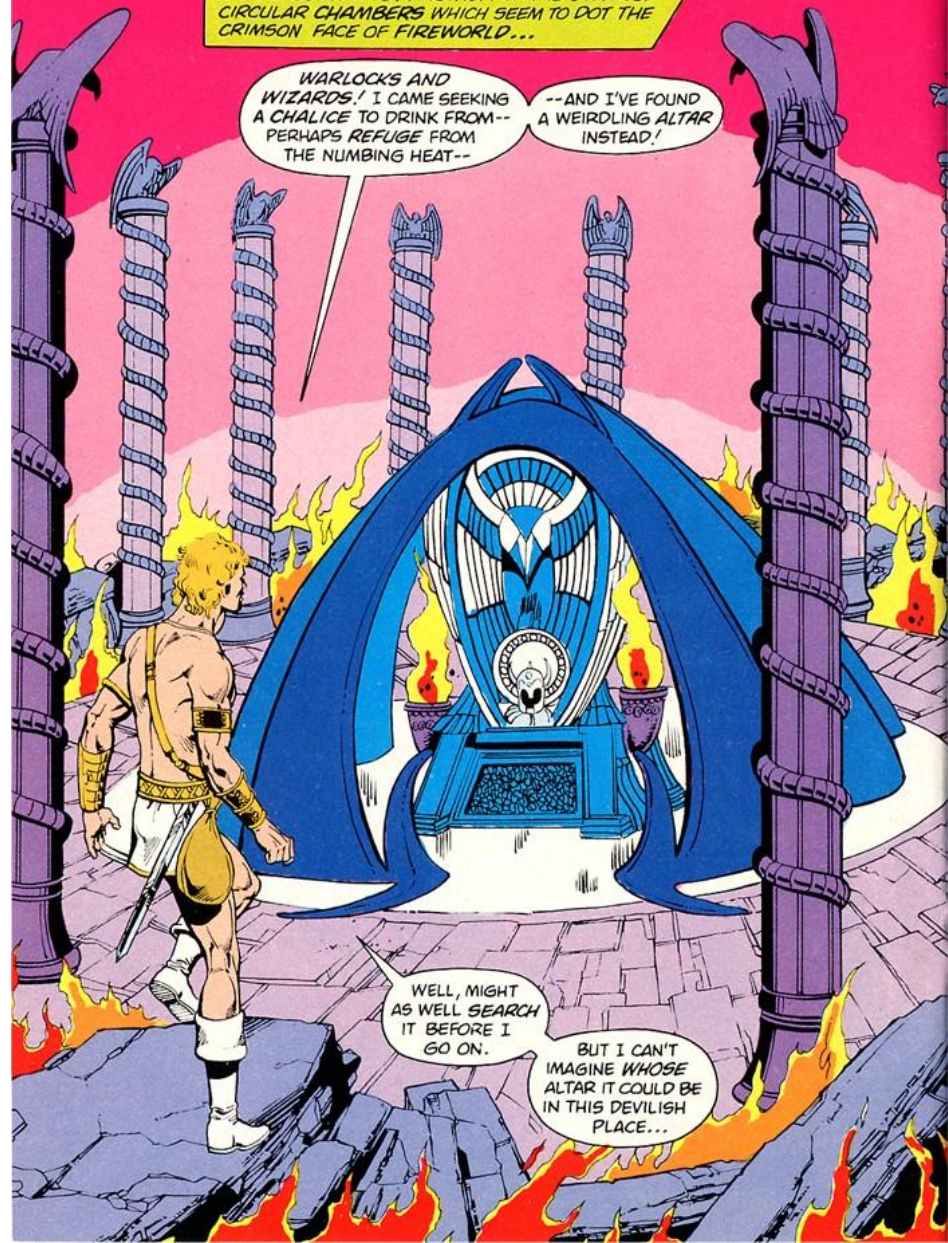
MEANWHILE, USING THE WORDS OF MENTORR AS THE FOUNDATION OF HIS ACTIONS, TORR HIMSELF HAS WANDERED INTO YET ANOTHER OF THE STRANGE CIRCULAR CHAMBERS WHICH SEEM TO DOT THE CRIMSON FACE OF FIREWORLD...

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!

WELL, MIGHT AS WELL SEARCH IT BEFORE I GO ON.

BUT I CAN'T IMAGINE WHOSE ALTAR IT COULD BE IN THIS DEVILISH PLACE...

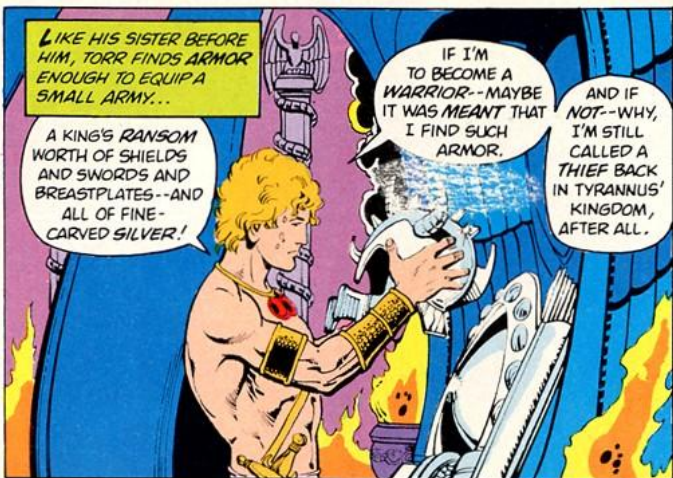




...FOR I'VE
CERTAINLY
SEEN NO ONE
ABOUT!

LIKE HIS SISTER BEFORE
HIM, TORR FINDS ARMOR
ENOUGH TO EQUIP A
SMALL ARMY...

A KING'S RANDOM
WORTH OF SHIELDS
AND SWORDS AND
BREASTPLATES--AND
ALL OF FINE-
CARVED SILVER!



IF I'M
TO BECOME A
WARRIOR--MAYBE
IT WAS MEANT THAT
I FIND SUCH
ARMOR.

AND IF
NOT--WHY,
I'M STILL
CALLED A
THIEF BACK IN
TYRANNUS'
KINGDOM,
AFTER ALL.

THIS HELMET--
INDEED, ALL THE
ARMOR--FITS
ME LIKE A
WELL-
TAILORED
GLOVE!

IT'S AN OMEN, ALL
RIGHT--AND WHO AM
I TO DISREGARD AN
OMEN?

THE BOWS AND
ARROWS I CAN
DO WITHOUT--
THEY'RE THE
WEAPONS OF
COWARDS AND
WEAKLINGS,
BUT--

WHAT--?





LOATHSOME
MONSTERS, ALL
AFLAME AND
LEAPING FROM
OUT OF THE
VERY FIRE!

AND WHERE ELSE
SHOULD FIRE-GOBLINS
DWELL, PRAY?

COME! PUT DOWN YOUR
WEAPONS, AND WE'LL TAKE
YOU HOME WITH US TO
SEE, EH?



NO? WELL,
THEN, STRIPLING,
IF YOU'LL NOT COME
WILLINGLY--!

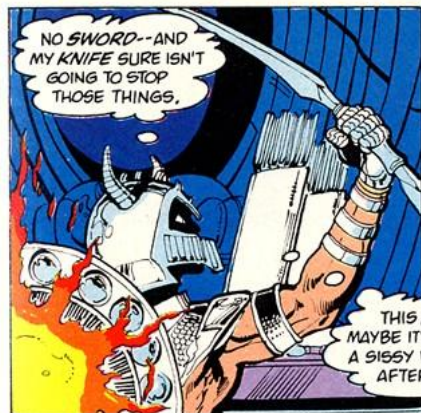


BALLS OF FLAME-- LEAPING
FROM THEIR VERY FINGERTIPS!

ONLY MY SILVER SHIELD
SAVES ME FROM THEM,
EVEN FOR THE MOMENT--



--AND MY
SWORD--



THE FIRE-GOBLIN'S 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?

GOOD! THEY'RE ALL FLEEING--THOSE WHO STILL CAN, ANYWAY.

I DIDN'T CARE MUCH FOR ICING YOU DOWN, OLD BUDDY, BUT YOU OUGHT TO BE MORE HOSPITABLE TO STRANGERS.

YOU'LL PROBABLY MELT BACK TO NORMAL IN A LITTLE WHILE--

I WILL SAY THIS, THOUGH--

--EVEN WHEN YOUR MOUTH'S AS DRY AS THE DESERT, VICTORY STILL TASTES SWEET!

--BUT I WON'T BE HERE TO SEE IT.

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

WELL, AT LEAST IT'S STOPPED
TRYING TO TOSS ME INTO THE LAVA,
THANK HELOS FOR SMALL FAVORS!
IT EVEN RESPONDS TO MY COM-
MANDS 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...

...BUT I CAN'T
RESIST KISSING
HIM.

AH! HE'S
WAKING UP!

I HOPE HE
WON'T MIND
THAT I--

MIND,
LASS?!

RESIST?
NAY-- I
WANT TO
KISS HIM!



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 BORROWING YOUR HORNEDED STEED, DEAR CHILD.

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



HERMINUS!

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 CONCERNS:

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



APPARENTLY NOT!



THE OCTOPOID'S STRENGTH!
MY OWN'S LIKE A CHILD'S
BESIDE IT!

IT'S DRAWING
ME TOWARD
IT-- INTO ITS
GAPING
MAW!

MY SHIELD--
IT'S MY ONLY
CHANCE!



I--I
DID
IT!

IT'S HUGE JAWS
CRUSHED THE SHIELD
--SHATTERED IT--
BUT THE JAGGED EDGES
ARE HURTING ITS
SOFT INSIDES!



IT'S SCUTTling BACK
INTO THE MOLTEN LAVA
WHERE IT MUST LIVE!

IF ITS PAIN HADN'T
DISTRACTED IT-- IT WOULD
HAVE TAKEN ME WITH IT!



THE MONSTER MUST HAVE READ
MY MIND SOMEHOW-- USED AN
IMAGE OF MANLY BEAUTY
BURIED THERE-- TO LURE ME.

WELL, I
SURVIVED ITS
ATTACK-- JUST
BARELY--

-- BUT I LOST
MY UNICORN--
MY WEAPONS--
EVERYTHING!



STILL SO HOT-- AND
WEARIER THAN EVER--
BUT I CAN'T GO
ON WITHOUT
A SWORD.

MUST GO
BACK TO THE
CHAMBER OF
SPLENDOR--
FOR MY
OLD
ONE--

-- AND IF
IT ISN'T
THERE-- I'M
IN DEEP
TROUBLE!

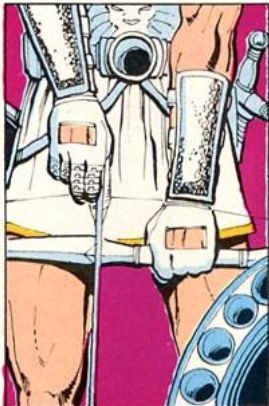
AS, ON ANOTHER OF THE MYRIAD
ROCK-BRIDGES WHICH FORM THE
SOLE ROADWAYS OF FIREWORLD...

SO! I THOUGHT YOU TWO
FIRE-GOBLINS 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!



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.

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

IF YOU REALLY
WANT TO SHOW
ME SOME
GRATITUDE--

--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!?

WATER!

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--



I'VE REALLY NO TIME, BOY.

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.

--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 OF A DEAD MAN'S EYES!

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



HUH??



THERE'S SOMETHING AT THE BOTTOM OF THE FOUNTAIN--SOME KIND OF ROLLED-UP PARCHMENT!



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

BUT WHO KNOWS? THE WAY THINGS GO IN THIS UNDERGROUND WORLD...



...MAYBE THAT SCROLL WILL TELL ME HOW TO FIND THEM.



BESIDES, A FAST, COOL DIP WOULD SURE FEEL GOOD RIGHT ABOUT NOW.

A FEW MINUTES AGO, MY TONGUE WAS HANGING OUT LIKE A DOG'S FROM THE HEAT...

AND NOW...



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--!

GLONP!

A full-page comic book illustration. A man with blonde hair, wearing a white swimsuit with a gold belt and wristbands, is suspended in the air, looking down in shock. He is being pulled down by a massive, red, scaly reptile that is emerging from the water. The reptile has yellow eyes and large yellow claws. The scene is set in a fountain, with water splashing and bubbles everywhere. Purple rocks are visible at the bottom of the frame. The background is a solid blue sky.

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--

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

THINGS
SHOULD GO
A BIT MORE
SMOOTHLY
FROM HERE
ON.

MAYBE
I COULD
JUST--

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--

OWWWWWW

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

SKRAWWWK

I HAD
TO ASK!?

THIS PLACE
NEVER GIVES UP,
DOES IT?

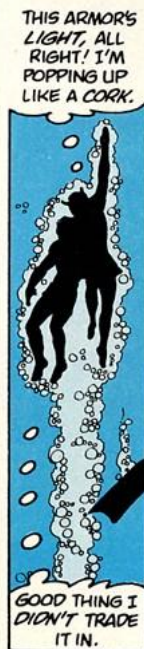
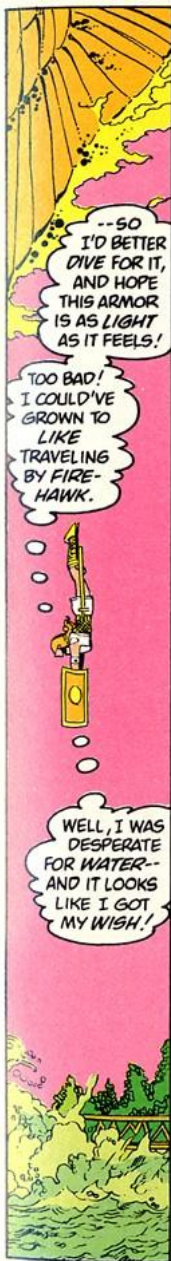
UNICORNS--
HYPNOTIC
OCTOPOIDS--
AND NOW THIS
FIRE-HAWK!

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--





WELL ? WHAT'S WRONG, TORR?
AREN'T YOU GLAD TO SEE ME ?

WHAT ARE
YOU GAPING
AT ?

YOU,
SISTER--
YES--

--BUT
NOT
THAT!

WOULDN'T
YOU JUST KNOW
IT--IN A FIRE-HAPPY
PLACE LIKE THIS--

--THAT THING
WOULD BE A FIRE-
BREATHER!?

GRAARRR

HSSSSSS

TORR!
WILL YOUR
SHIELD--?

I DON'T KNOW!

BUT OUR ONLY
HOPE--IS TO FIGHT
FIRE--WITH FIRE--

--AND
PRAY!

FROOOSH!

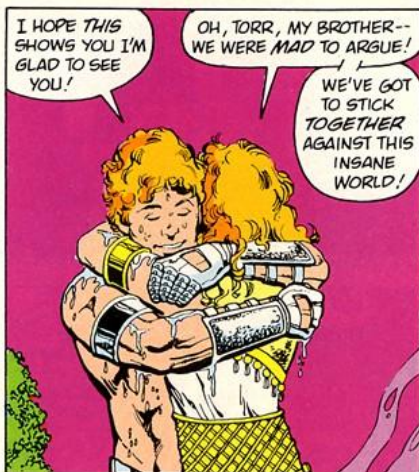


IT--IT WORKED!

I DON'T KNOW
IF THAT THING'S
DEAD OR NOT--
AND I DON'T
MUCH CARE--

--AS LONG AS
IT STAYS DOWN
THERE, AND WE'RE
UP HERE.

NOW, ABOUT
THAT QUESTION
YOU ASKED BE-
FORE, TARRA...



I HOPE THIS
SHOWS YOU I'M
GLAD TO SEE
YOU!

OH, TORR, MY BROTHER--
WE WERE MAD TO ARGUE!

WE'VE GOT
TO STICK
TOGETHER
AGAINST THIS
INSANE
WORLD!



...SO THE WAY I FIGURE IT, I
GAINED SOME SORT OF UNDER-
STANDING OF FIREWORLD, AND
THAT'S WHAT ENABLED ME TO
MASTER THE FIRE-HAWK.

I GOT A LITTLE BIT
WISER MYSELF--WHEN
I LEARNED I'M NOT THE
BIG STRONG LONER I
PRETENDED TO BE.

WE STILL DIDN'T FIND THE CHALICE,
THOUGH, LET ALONE THE SWORD...




AND IF THIS
GATEWAY IS ANY
EVIDENCE--I'M
NOT SURE WE'RE
GOING TO!

IT'S LIKE A
ROARING FURNACE--
THE GREATEST INFERNO
WE'VE ENCOUNTERED
YET!

BUT NOW THAT
OUR PATHS HAVE
JOINED--OUR GOAL
MUST BE JUST
BEYOND IT! IT
MUST!





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!

I'LL DRINK TO THAT--A NICE LONG GULP OF WATER!

YES, AND ALL WITHOUT SLAYING ANYBODY TO GET TO IT, TOO!

AS A MATTER OF FACT--SO WILL I!

HUH? WHO--?



THE CHALICE--IT SHATTERED INTO A MILLION PIECES!

THEN I'M BETTING--IT WASN'T THE REAL CHALICE OF LIGHT AT ALL!

AYE, LAD AND LASS--HERMINUS, AND DRINKING A JOLLY TOAST TO THE BOTH OF YOU!

FACT IS, I WAS QUITE THIRSTY, AND SINCE THIS TRUE CHALICE NEVER GETS EMPTY--

GIVE US THAT CHALICE, THIEF!

BUT OF COURSE! WHY NOT? I'VE DRUNK MY FILL... AND LEARNED ALL THAT'S TO BE LEARNED FROM IT.

THIS IS WHAT HE MEANS, TORR LOOK!



AH, BUT YOU ARE A PERCEPTIVE WENCH, AREN'T YOU?

IT'S HERMINUS!

--I'M TOO WATER-LOGGED EVEN TO RUN FROM YOU!

THERE--ON THE BOTTOM OF THE CHALICE--

THE IMAGE OF--A CROWN!

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!

LET
HIM.

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 WAR-
RIORS NOW,
REMEMBER?

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

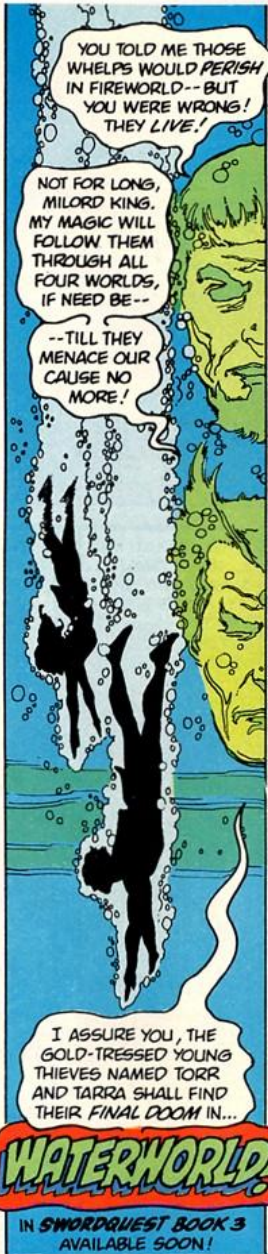
TARRA!
SOMETHING'S
HAPPENING--
TO THE
CHALICE!

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

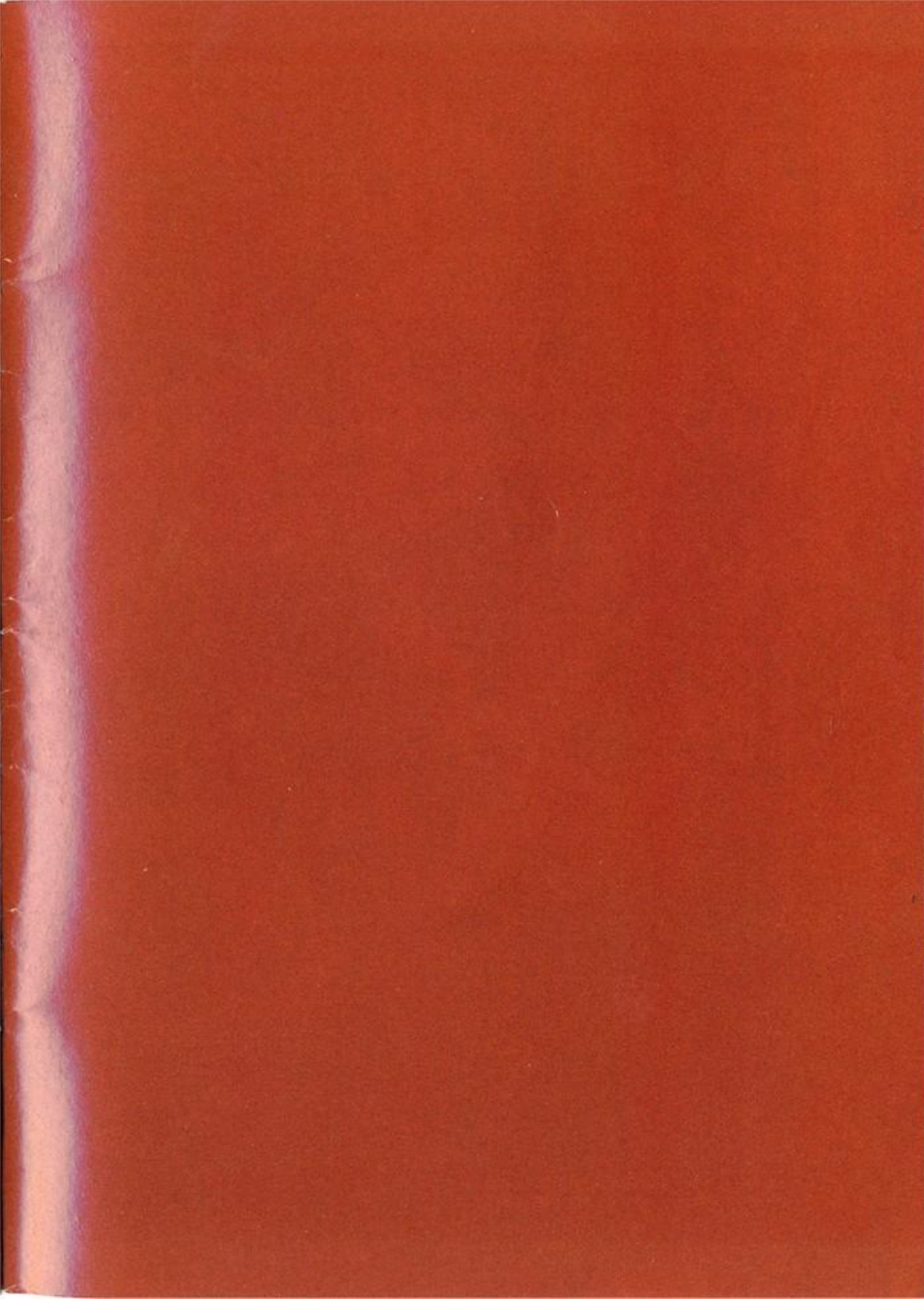
HUH?
WHERE'D
ALL THIS
WATER--

--COME--

--FROM?



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





ATARI

CO19252