





...AND WE ONLY GET BETTER AS WE GET OLDER.



CROM CURSE ME FOR A CRIPPLED TURTLE...

DINNER'S DONE!



COYOLXAUHQWI HUEHUELIZTLI...



...TLAPALLAN ONOC MO-TEO-TIAYA...

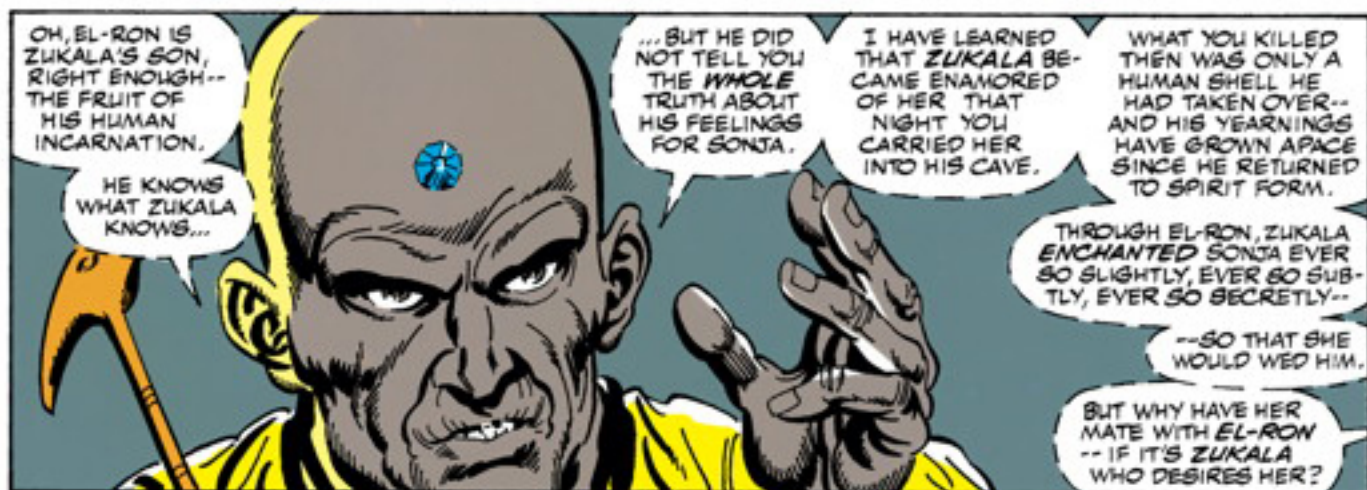


...OMEXOCAN NAHUALI! ZUKALA!

IF YOU DESPISE ZUKALA SO MUCH, LORD EL-RON, WHY DO YOU SPEAK STRANGE RITUALS IN HIS NAME?

AND WHY IS SONJA PRESENT...





OH, EL-RON IS ZUKALA'S SON, RIGHT ENOUGH-- THE FRUIT OF HIS HUMAN INCARNATION.

HE KNOWS WHAT ZUKALA KNOWS...

... BUT HE DID NOT TELL YOU THE **WHOLE** TRUTH ABOUT HIS FEELINGS FOR SONJA.

I HAVE LEARNED THAT ZUKALA BECAME ENAMORED OF HER THAT NIGHT YOU CARRIED HER INTO HIS CAVE.

WHAT YOU KILLED THEN WAS ONLY A HUMAN SHELL HE HAD TAKEN OVER-- AND HIS YEARNINGS HAVE GROWN APACE SINCE HE RETURNED TO SPIRIT FORM.

THROUGH EL-RON, ZUKALA ENCHANTED SONJA EVER SO SLIGHTLY, EVER SO SUBTLY, EVER SO SECRETLY--

--SO THAT SHE WOULD WED HIM.

BUT WHY HAVE HER MATE WITH EL-RON -- IF IT'S ZUKALA WHO DESIRES HER?



BECAUSE, CONAN, ZUKALA WANTS HIS SON AND SONJA TO HAVE A CHILD--

--A CHILD WHO WILL BE THE NEW HUMAN INCARNATION OF ZUKALA--

--THE GODLING MADE FLESH!



ZUKALA'S CHOSEN THE HYRKANIAN FOR HIS BROODMARE, THEN?

BY CROM, I'LL HACK EL-RON INTO MORE PIECES THAN THIS CASTLE HAS SPIDERS, BEFORE I LET HIM--



KARANTHES...?

GONE--AS SILENTLY AS HE CAME!

IF YOU ARE LONELY, MAN-BORN-OF-WOMAN...



...JAGGTA-NOGA WILL KEEP YOU COMPANY!

YOU!?

YOU WERE ZUKALA'S DEMON FLUNKY IN THE OLD DAYS.

HAVE YOU PASSED FROM FATHER TO SON, LIKE A MOTH-EATEN CLOAK?

I SERVE WHOEVER KNOWS THE SPELL TO CALL ME FORTH...



... AND I SLAY ANY WHOM MY SUMMONER WISHES ME TO SLAY!

I HAVE BUSINESS WITH YOUR MASTER EL-RON, TOAD--

-- AND NEITHER DAGGER NOR DEMON WILL KEEP ME FROM HIM THIS NIGHT!

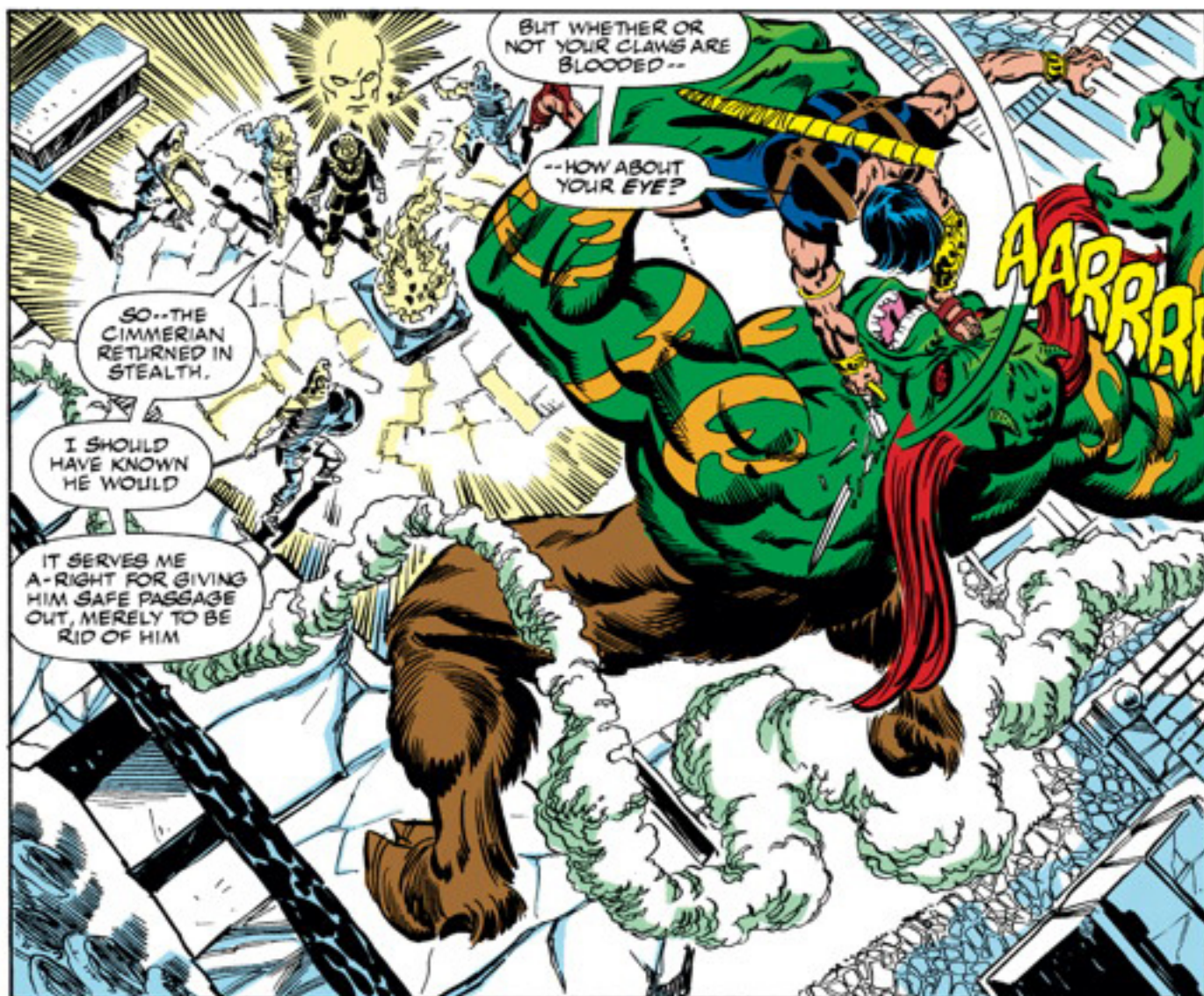
YOU ESCAPED DEATH AT MY HANDS TWICE BEFORE, MORTAL --



-- BECAUSE SOME INTERFERING MAGE SENT ME BACK TO MY LOST LAND WITH EMPTY HANDS.

BUT TONIGHT, I WILL NOT RETURN THERE WITH UNBLOODIED TALONS!

YMIR'S BEARD! MY SWORD DOES YOU EVEN LESS DAMAGE-- THAN IT DID BEFORE!



BUT WHETHER OR NOT YOUR CLAWS ARE BLOODED --

-- HOW ABOUT YOUR EYE?

SO--THE CIMMERIAN RETURNED IN STEALTH.

I SHOULD HAVE KNOWN HE WOULD

IT SERVES ME A-RIGHT FOR GIVING HIM SAFE PASSAGE OUT, MERELY TO BE RID OF HIM

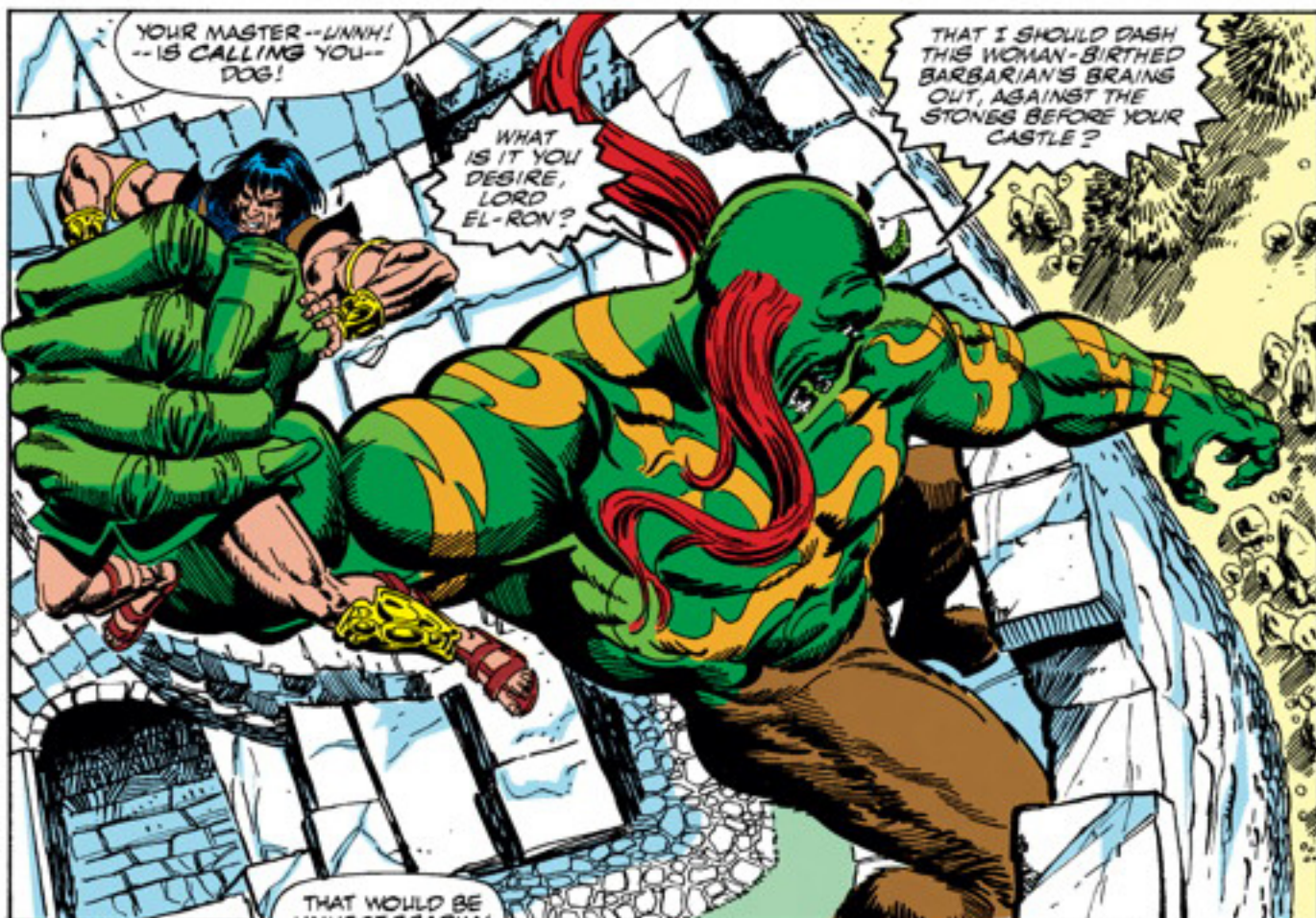
AARRRR!



WELL, I SHALL NOT BE SO MAUDLIN AND MERCIFUL A SECOND TIME.

NOTHING MUST STOP MY WEDDING -- OUR WEDDING -- TO THE SHE-WARRIOR.

JAGGTA-NOGA!



YOUR MASTER -- UNNH! -- IS CALLING YOU -- DOG!

WHAT IS IT YOU DESIRE, LORD EL-RON?

THAT I SHOULD DASH THIS WOMAN-BIRTHED BARBARIAN'S BRAINS OUT, AGAINST THE STONES BEFORE YOUR CASTLE?

THAT WOULD BE UNNECESSARILY UNAPPETIZING, MY SERVITOR.



I THOUGHT PERHAPS YOU WOULD PREFER MY LEAVE TO TAKE HIM BACK TO YOUR OWN SPHERE --

-- THERE TO DO WITH HIM WHAT YOU WILL --

-- FOR AS LONG AS YOU WILL.



YESSSSSSS!