



MARVEL
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THE MIGHTY WORLD OF

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FEATURING

THE INCREDIBLE



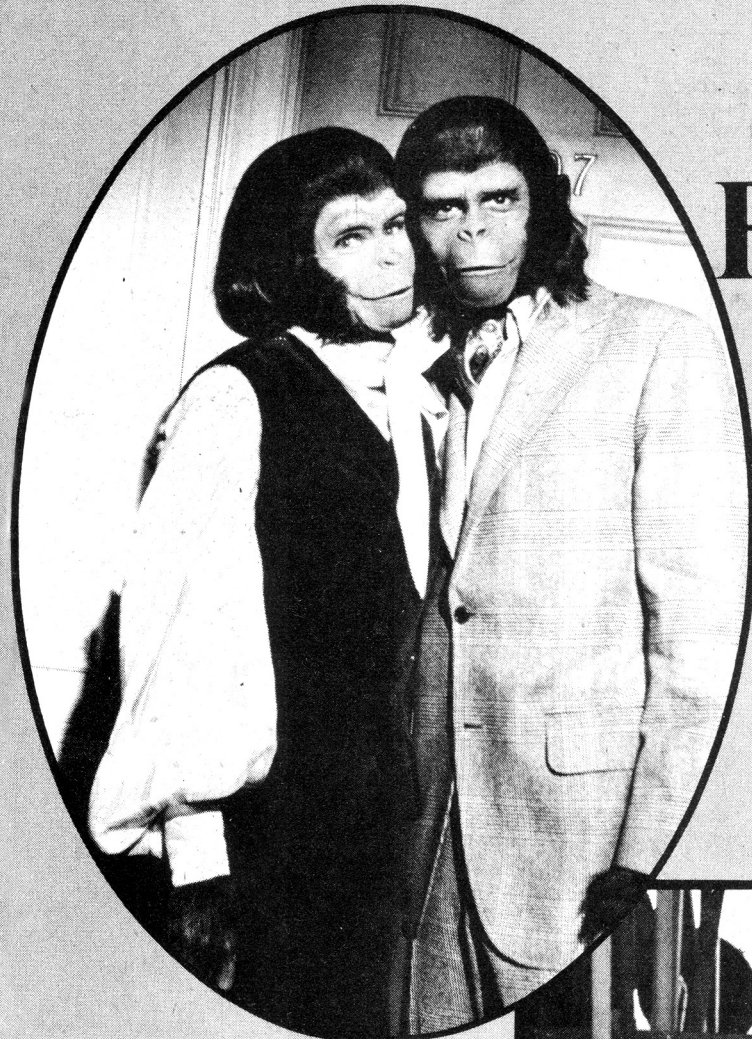
AND

**PLANET
OF THE
APES**™

WHERE MAN ONCE STOOD SUPREME
--NOW RULE THE APES!



**MORE
ACTION!
MORE
THRILLS!
MORE
SUSPENSE!**



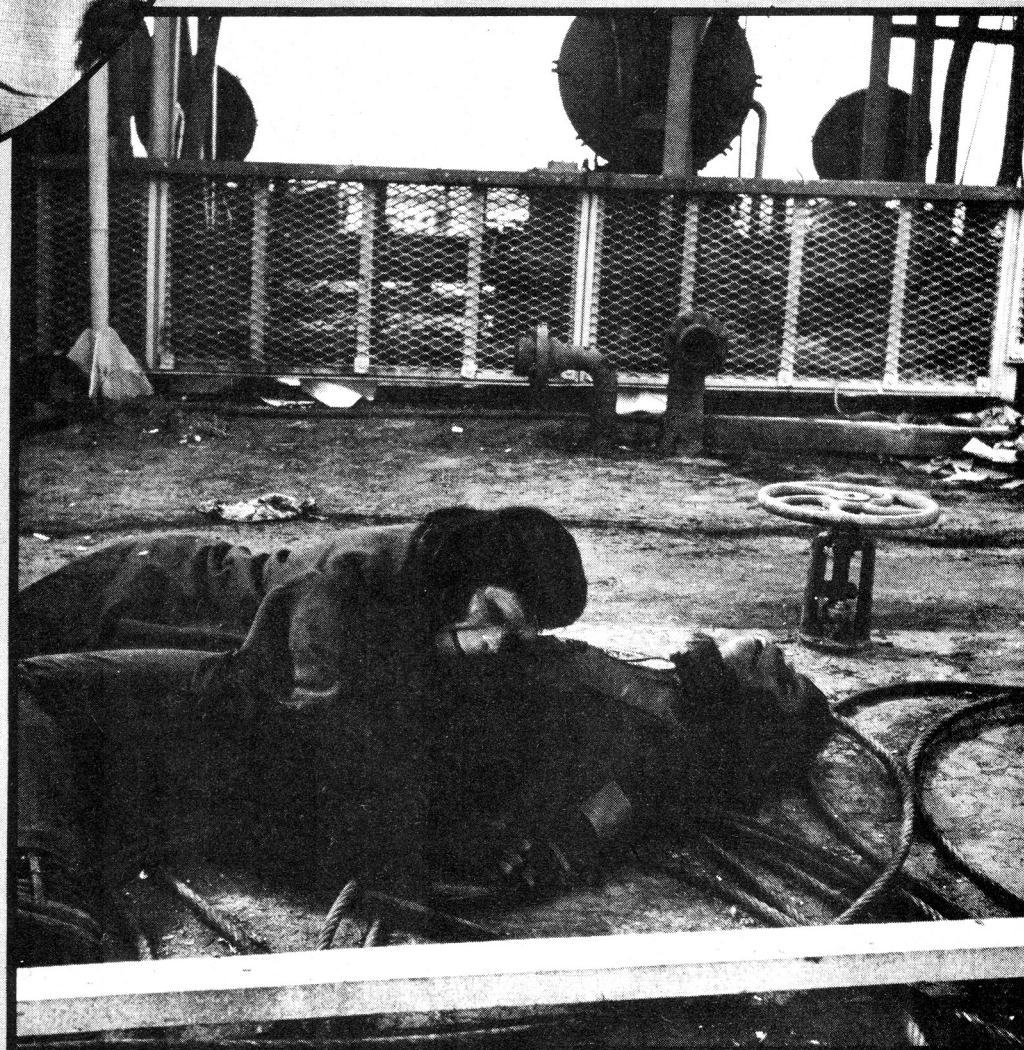
MAN & APE: REFLECTIONS IN AN IMPERFECT MIRROR

PART I

JW-158

A rather powerful phrase, isn't it? Twentieth Century Fox Studios has reaped the proverbial gold mine from its inherent implications, as have the minions up at Mighty Marvel. At first glance, when viewed in a mildly cynical light, that forceful pronouncement may appear to be nothing more than advertising hype. However, if taken in another situational context, it perhaps offers a uniquely incisive explanation that could account for the enormous popularity and remarkable durability of those Pierre Boulle-spawned creations. Apes who live as men; complete with bizarre cities, clothing, customs, not to mention a liberal share of men's follies and faults as well. All of these aspects have thoroughly captured the imagination of those who count among their virtues, an appreciation of fantasy concepts that, when handled right, have more to offer than mindless pablum.

To those even casually familiar with science-fiction, the idea of animals as masters with humans as their slave/pets is scarcely original.



This theme has been explored dozens of times in various media, with varying degrees of success. Still, the five PLANET OF THE APES films, along with the subsequently inevitable book and video presentations, have provided acute observers with the most visually explosive treatment of this topic yet released. And all through the endless retelling and reshaping that occurs in each different approach, the *underlying*, though not *understated*, theme remains intact. The more learned followers of the Apes-series, delight in drawing parallels between the Simian Culture and that of present-day Man; observing that there is marginally little difference in the conduct of either Man or beast, and further, that aside from the apparent physical differences, they appear one and the same.

It is quite easy to become so enamored with the unusual happenings on the world where apes rule, that the sometime-spectator will have a tendency to overlook the role humans play in this anthropoid society. There, depending on the Ape-dominated era one happens to look in on, Man will be seen in various stages of degeneracy, ranging from mindless brute to barely tolerated third-rate citizen. His main function on this "brave, new world" seems to consist of playing fox (without that much maligned creature's native slyness, I might add) to the gorilla's role of horse riding hunter, or as a substitute for the laboratory guinea pig in hideous "scientific" experiments. The spectacle of "apes on parade" may strike that strange chord which resides in all of us and reverberates to the impression of awe and wonder, but don't lose sight of what lay beyond all those fascinating reversals of role. Let's take a reflective journey through the world of "Apes", and this time, avoid the glitter and see what it's really all about.

In the first movie, PLANET OF THE APES, we are introduced to astronaut Taylor, who spends a goodly portion of the film's prologue philosophizing about the nature of Man and his place in the universe. Upon his capture by warrior gorillas, after he'd crash-landed on Earth, Taylor observes, first-hand, the decay which has come to his species. And he very nearly becomes a statistic himself, and probably would have, had it not been for the concern

shown him by Dr. Zira, who affectionately dubbed him "Bright-eyes". Taylor's comrades on his interstellar mission are not nearly so fortunate as he is, and one is later found expertly stuffed and mounted in a museum, while the other becomes a subject for brain experimentation. Taylor's lot is somewhat more fortunate, for through his eyes we are able to see most dramatically, how low Man has sunk from his former position. Humans are never really regarded as a serious threat to simian dominance, unless their frequent raids on ape food storehouses can be considered such. And even those simians of a less acrimonious nature than the gorillas, such as the intelligent chimpanzee, see Man largely in terms of a two-legged pet to be muzzled, and led about on a

to sweep the evidence of Taylor's human intelligence under the "national security" blanket, but he is well aware that Man once ruled this planet of apes, and he sees the disturbing survivor of that period as the carrier of the evil and destructive tendencies which destroyed Man's civilization. Whether Zaius' carefully worked out cover-up of the true background of both apes and men is a self-serving delusion or a skillfully wrought plan for avoiding sudden culture shock, must be determined on an individual level. Perhaps a greater understanding of the depth of this dichotomy will be apparent with a reading of the Sacred Scroll, number 23, 9th verse:

Beware the beast Man,
For he is the Devil's Pawn
Alone among God's primates he



leash. Before realizing that Taylor's intelligence is the equal of their on, Zira and Cornelius playfully reward "Bright-Eyes" with lumps of sugar for his cute tricks. The allegedly wise Dr. Zaius, one of the orangutan elite, sees Man neither as a nuisance or a curiosity, rather as a threat, and particularly in Taylor's case, an unprecedented one to simian survival and dominance. With typically political expedience, Zaius attempts

kills for sport or Lust or Greed
Yes, He will murder his brother
to possess his brother's land

Let him not breed in great numbers
For he will make a desert of his home and yours.
Shun him. Drive him back to his jungle lair;
For he is the harbinger of death.



That rather nicely sums up the attitude which prevailed at that time. Man is hated and hunted by the gorillas, feared and shunned by the orangutans, and viewed as subjects for constant experimentation by chimpanzees. On first thought, this seems to be a more than unfair burden for any species to have to bear; the more so, considering that Man once was absolute master over the world he is now a slave on. But

when Taylor ultimately discovers the remains of the Statue of Liberty, the knowledge of where he is and what has happened crystallizes in his mind. Man, after centuries of striving, had succeeded in destroying himself, lending ample credence to Dr. Zaius' observations about the devil in the hairless apes.

To learn how Man was placed in this deplorable condition, we have to peer backward in time, and through the marvel of four film sequels to the original "Apes" film, the whole story can be told—and it isn't a pleasant one. Man was not backed into a corner by some outside agency which forced his overthrow. The end was long in coming, but the handwriting was on the wall early. In **BENEATH THE PLANET OF THE APES**, the regard for humans is growing steadily worse, if possible. There is a concentrated effort to exterminate the vermin-like humans led by the bloodthirsty General Ursus and his cohorts. Ursus views the humans with typically gorilla contempt, as parasites which consume the food and resources of the expanding simian population. Concurrently, the chimpanzees also extend their

condescending sympathies for down-trodden mankind and they even organize a secret protest against the savage treatment accorded men. But the simian ego is soon in for a major deflation, as a hidden nest of radiation-altered mutants, survivors of the atomic blast which put the apes in control, (and just how, parenthetically, was to be revealed in a later movie, *Weird*) and who get their jollies tormenting both Man and beast—or is that apes and beast? The entire issue becomes rather academic when the Doomsday Missile, coincidentally the handiwork of Man before the "Fall", vaporizes everything and everyone into cosmic dust. At least until the following film.

The third installment entitled **ESCAPE FROM THE PLANET OF THE APES** presents us with a new twist on this idea. Now the apes, in the form of the escaping Zira and Cornelius, come under the reverse scrutiny of the ruling inhabitants of the world to which they have time-travelled back to. That world is Earth, circa the early 1970's. And the ruling species is Man. The reaction to the two newcomers is mixed, to say

the least, and suitably human. The majority welcomes the visitors with open arms, and the apes are shown a cross section of Twentieth Century Culture, including bubble baths, television and sports. Interestingly enough, Zira and Cornelius seem to provide much of the objective criticism. For example, when taken to a boxing match, Cornelius can only wrinkle his nose distastefully and mutter: "Beastly!" In what seems to be a parody of the first film's proceedings, the articulate apes are brought before a special investigating committee, where they testify about the future downfall of Man. They present their case passionately, but forces are at work behind the scenes which ensure an unexpected ending to this strange chapter in the world's history. Dr. Otto Von Hasslein, a cruel and calculating government scientist, paralleling the role of Dr. Zaius, advocates that the two chimpanzees be destroyed lest they propagate and bring about the reality of their stated prophecy. His actions are capped by a city-wide ape hunt, resulting in the

brutal assassination of the two travellers from the future, but not before a fateful little bundle of joy is left behind in an auspicious location. The actions of Man, ignorant selfish Man have opened the floodgates of the future. If ever the phrase "History repeats itself" had poignant validity, it was here.

In CONQUEST OF THE PLANET OF THE APES, Man has progressed further down the ruinous road of arrogant dominance. Set in the 1990's, North America has become a "Big Brother" style super state, a la George Orwell, and run by a ruthless dictator. The citizenry is cool, unemotional, and are all attended by trained apes who toil as servants. A plague from outer space has destroyed all dogs, cats, and other animals associated with the title of human "pets", and society has turned to the simian species. However, with a rather predictable twist, Man uses the apes, not for companionship, but as an exploitable resource. It is a dismal world in both ethics and physical appearance, with movie technicians deliberately washing out the color filming process to achieve a drab, cheerless mood. The architecture is comprised of stark glass and steel towers reflective of a hardened, souless population of humans. The offspring of slaughtered Zira and Cornelius has grown to adulthood and is discovered by the evil Governor Breck, who sets his formidable security force to hunt the fugitive down. In yet another warped parallel, Breck, assaying the role of Dr. Zaius, fears the consequences of Caesar's continued survival in accordance with the previously stated prophecy. It's interesting to speculate upon the importance knowledge freely distributed or withheld from the masses plays in the ultimate working out of this eons long, overlapping drama.

The charismatic Caesar, learning of the plans to thwart his destiny, succeeds in arousing the aspirations of the enslaved anthropoids into an armed revolt, which eventually gains for him the ravaged city, and soon, the entire planet as well. Breck's soldiers are likened to the Nazi soldiers of Hitler's regime in both garb and manner, with the resulting audience attitude of sympathy for the apes and contempt for mankind. And with a further gesture eliciting our approbation, Caesar spares the life of autocrat Breck, regarding

needless killing as abhorrent, and uses the opportunity to proclaim the dawning of a new day for his new-found brothers.

in the fifth and final visual scenario, BATTLE FOR THE PLANET OF THE APES, Man is not seen in any more favorable light, than he has previously, but now it is the apes themselves who lose some of their pristine innocence. Although Caesar treats humanity fairly, a large faction of the ever brutish gorillas take delight in tormenting downtrodden mankind, and would like nothing better than to totally wipe every last "animal scum" from the face of the planet. Eventually, the gorillas wrest Caesar's political authority in a coup, and place the humans in concentration camps. Fortunately, the benign Caesar again regains his rightful position and works toward a better understanding of the proper relationship between Man and Ape. Eventually, an offshoot of Man appears, the fore-runners of the dreaded mutants who appeared in BATTLE, and engage the Ape Militia in a ferocious war, with neither faction claiming total victory; and the once beautiful village of the apes is reduced to a heap of flaming rubble.

And so, Man, whose common ancestry with the anthropoids propelled him towards the goal of absolute mastery of all he surveyed had fallen, wrenched from the heady position of prominence by those whose common lot of ignorance he used as a lever to extract a burden of labor that had served to inspire revolt in the past, though never on such a world-girdling scale. Man receives more than a smattering of his own ugliness in the form of human dissection and torture, but such ill treatment is small recompense for the total degradation heaped upon his simian cousins. To return to our original premise, men and apes are both beasts beneath the skin, and it is apparently an entertaining and remunerative venture to expose the underside of human nature while spinning the senses with the marvel of cinematic expression. Conceptually, "Planet of the Apes" is all about men donning masks to play monkeys for fun and profit, while in reality, stripping the pretense and the mask of human behavior, showing our all too frightening similarity under the hairy or hairless skin.



THE NEW ORDER!

Stan Lee PRESENTS: **PLANET OF THE APES!**™

HORROR COMES TO BOTH THE HUMANS AND APES IN THIS LITTLE GROUP AS THEY LEARN OF "THE NEW ORDER." THEY ARE TOLD BY A FRIGHTENED OLD MAN HOW THIS RELIGION OF THE FLESH GREW WITH THE RISE OF THE APES TO POWER:

YOU SHALL **NOT** ATTACK ME UNPROVOKED, OLD MAN! I AM **NOT** TO BE ASSOCIATED WITH THAT FILTHY "NEW ORDER," SIMPLY BECAUSE I, TOO, AM AN APE!

THE HUMANS ARE USED AS **SLAVES** WHILE THEY ARE **YOUNG AND STRONG**. WHEN THEY GROW TOO OLD TO BE OF USE AS **SERVANTS**-- THEY ARE **DEVoured!**

I SHALL NOT HAVE IT!

DOUG MOENCH--WRITER
TOM SUTTON--ARTIST
ARCHIE GOODWIN--EDITOR





VERY WELL, ALARIC-- BUT ONLY UNTIL WE LEARN THE TRUE NATURE OF THIS NEW ORDER.

HELP ME DRAG YOUR HUMAN FRIEND INTO THIS **ALCOVE**-- AND BE **QUICK** ABOUT IT!!!

DO YOU **SEE** THEM GRAY-MALKYN--?

AYE-- WEARING ROBES AND COWLS. JUST LIKE HUMANS TO HIDE THEIR FACE.

HUMANS--? BUT I WAS TOLD THE NEW ORDER WAS COMPRISED OF APES!!!

"I SUPPOSE THAT EXPLAINS CERTAIN THINGS THEN, ALARIC-- BUT WHETHER HUMAN OR APE, I'LL ADMIT ONE THING!!!

"THEY CERTAINLY GIVE OFF THE **APPEARANCE**, AT LEAST, OF BEING **GHOSTS**--GLOWING LIKE THAT IN THOSE **WHITE ROBES**!!!

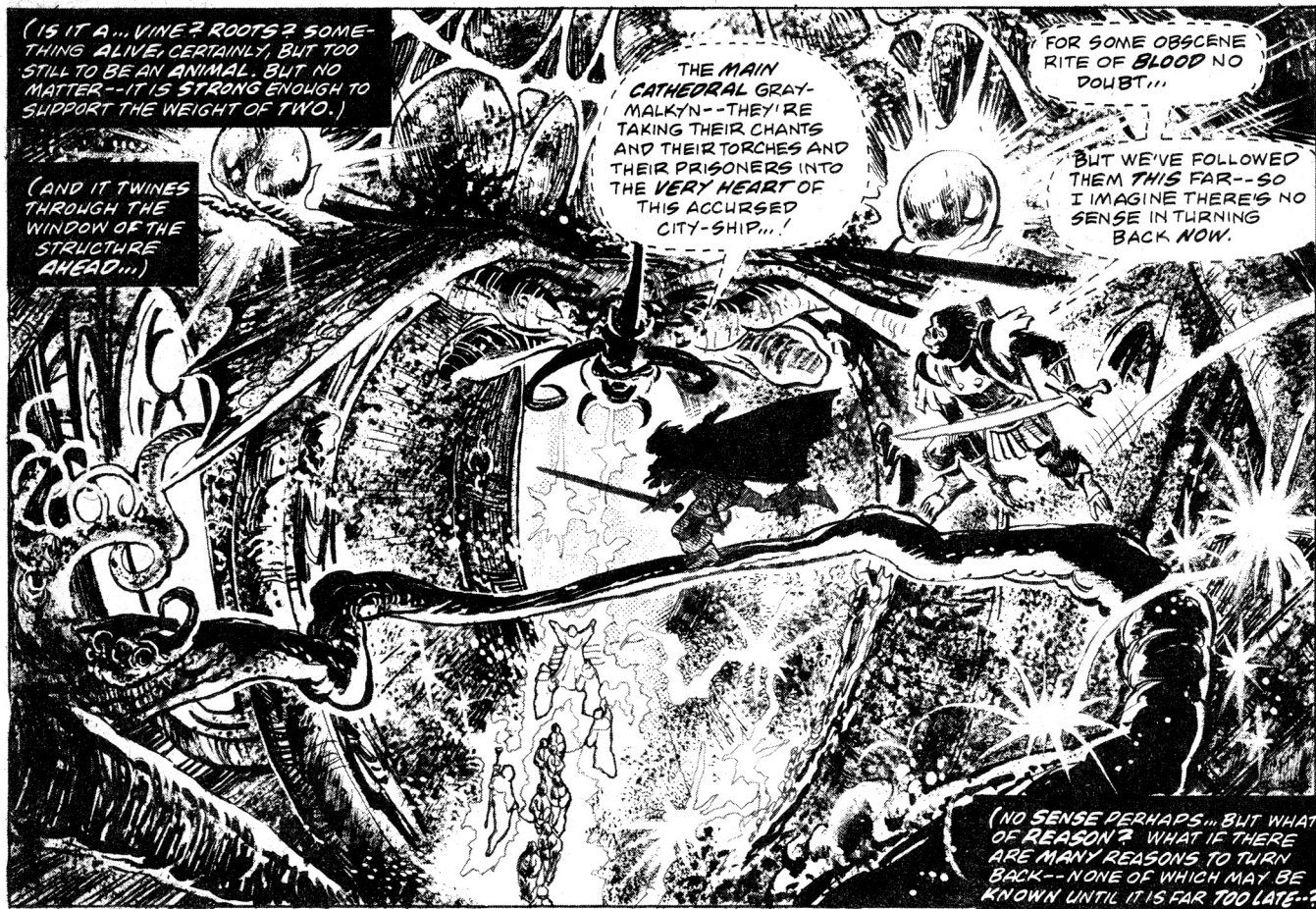
THEY'RE NEARING THE **CORNER**.

"WAIT, GRAYMALKYN-- LOOK BEHIND THE PROCESSION!!! THEY'RE LEADING A GROUP OF PRISONERS-- IN **BLACK ROBES**!!!"

"AYE, ALARIC-- AND IF THE **WHITE-ROBED** ONES ARE HUMANS, THEN THE MISERABLE WRETCHES IN THE **BLACK ROBES** MUST BE APES."

"YOUR LOGIC WORKS AS WELL, GRAYMALKYN, FROM THE **REVERSE VIEWPOINT**. AND IT SEEMS THERE IS BUT ONE WAY TO DETERMINE WHICH IS WHICH!!!"

"AYE-- AND WE MAY AS WELL LEAVE STARKOR HERE. HE'LL LIKELY BE SAFER THAN WE WILL."



(IS IT A... VINE? ROOTS? SOMETHING ALIVE, CERTAINLY, BUT TOO STILL TO BE AN ANIMAL. BUT NO MATTER--IT IS STRONG ENOUGH TO SUPPORT THE WEIGHT OF TWO.)

(AND IT TWINES THROUGH THE WINDOW OF THE STRUCTURE AHEAD!!!)

THE MAIN CATHEDRAL GRAY-MALKYN--THEY'RE TAKING THEIR CHANTS AND THEIR TORCHES AND THEIR PRISONERS INTO THE VERY HEART OF THIS ACCURSED CITY-SHIP!!!

FOR SOME OBSCURE RITE OF **BLOOD** NO DOUBT!!!

BUT WE'VE FOLLOWED THEM **THIS FAR**--SO I IMAGINE THERE'S NO SENSE IN TURNING BACK NOW.

(NO SENSE PERHAPS... BUT WHAT OF REASON? WHAT IF THERE ARE MANY REASONS TO TURN BACK--NONE OF WHICH MAY BE KNOWN UNTIL IT IS FAR TOO LATE--?)

(THROUGH THE WINDOW, NOW-- AND INTO... WHAT? THE VINE JOIN'S OTHERS-- FLOWS INTO A... GARDEN... OF STRANGE LIFE, SPILLING OVER THE DIRT FLOOR, CLIMBING UP THE PILLARS-- LAND, ALL THE LUSH GROWTH OF LAND, CONTAINED HERE IN THE HEART OF THIS DEAD CITY WHICH SAILS THE SEA...)

(BUT MORE THAN THAT-- A HUGE, AND SOMEHOW **OBSCENE**, OBJECT DOMINATES THIS AWESOME CATHEDRAL... ITS PRESENCE **DWARFING** THE MYRIAD COLORS OF LIFE GROWING AROUND IT... AS IT CONVEYS A SILENT BUT POWERFUL FEELING OF DEATH...)

A CONTROLLED JUNGLE, ALARIC-- FILLING THE PLACE...

I HAVE NOTICED, GRAYMALKYN-- BUT IT IS NOT THE GARDEN WHICH FILLS ME WITH DREAD...

YOU MEAN THAT MONOLITH ON THE ALTAR--? YES, THEY DO SEEM TO BE WORSHIPPING IT...

PERHAPS WE SHOULD CLIMB DOWN FROM HERE-- TRY TO GET CLOSER, AND HEAR WHAT THEY'RE SAYING...





DOWN HERE,
ALARIC-- BEHIND
THIS HEDGE-- WE'LL
BE SAFE ENOUGH
HERE...

AYE... IF THESE
VINES DON'T SEIZE
US...

QUIET--
THEIR LEADER
IS BEGINNING SOME
SORT OF SPEECH.
LISTEN...

THE NEW ORDER BORN
OF OLD SINS IS HEREBY
CONVENED IN THIS HALL
DEDICATED TO THE WOR-
SHIP OF THOSE FORCES
WHICH **CREATED** US! AND
WE ARE GATHERED TO A-
GAIN CONDUCT THE BUSI-
NESS OF **DEATH**!

KNOW THAT THIS CITY-SHIP
OF **CATHEDRALUS** IS LIKE
UNTO A MIGHTY ARK WHICH
SHALL CARRY US TO THE NEW
LAND! AND KNOW THAT WHEN
WE REACH THE NEW LAND WE
SHALL BECOME **MISSIONARIES**.

-- MISSIONARIES OF THE
GLORIOUS NEW ORDER
BORN OF OLD SIN, AND
WE SHALL SPREAD THE
WORD OF OUR GLORIOUS
ORDER, GATHERING TO-
GETHER ALL THOSE LIKE
UNTO **OURSELVES**--

-- ALL THOSE WHO
HAVE BEEN CRE-
ATED-- IN THE IMAGE
OF THE FORCES OF
THE NEW ORDER!
AND TOGETHER, WE
SHALL DRIVE OUT THE
OLD, PUNISHING THE
ONES GUILTY OF THE
OLD SINS BY SLAYING
THEM ALL!

YEA, WE SHALL SACRI-
FICE THE OLD-- OFFERING
THEIR BLOOD TO THE
FORCES OF THE NEW
ORDER!!

(DEATH!!!)

(BUT...
WHOSE
DEATH--?)



AND KNOW THAT,
IN FULL VIEW OF
OUR BLESSED CON-
GREGATION, I
SHALL NOW DELIVER
THE FIRST OF
THOSE SACRI-
FICES--!!

(HE RAISES
HIS SWORD
-- NO TIME
TO RUSH
FORWARD--
TO SAVE THE
VICTIM--!)



(BUT WAIT! EVEN
AS THE SWORD SLASHES
DOWN THE VICTIM
TWISTS--)

(-- ROLLS OVER,
FRANTICALLY--)



(-- SO THAT THE
SWORD GREET'S
NOT THE FLESH
OF THE
VICTIM--)

RIPT!

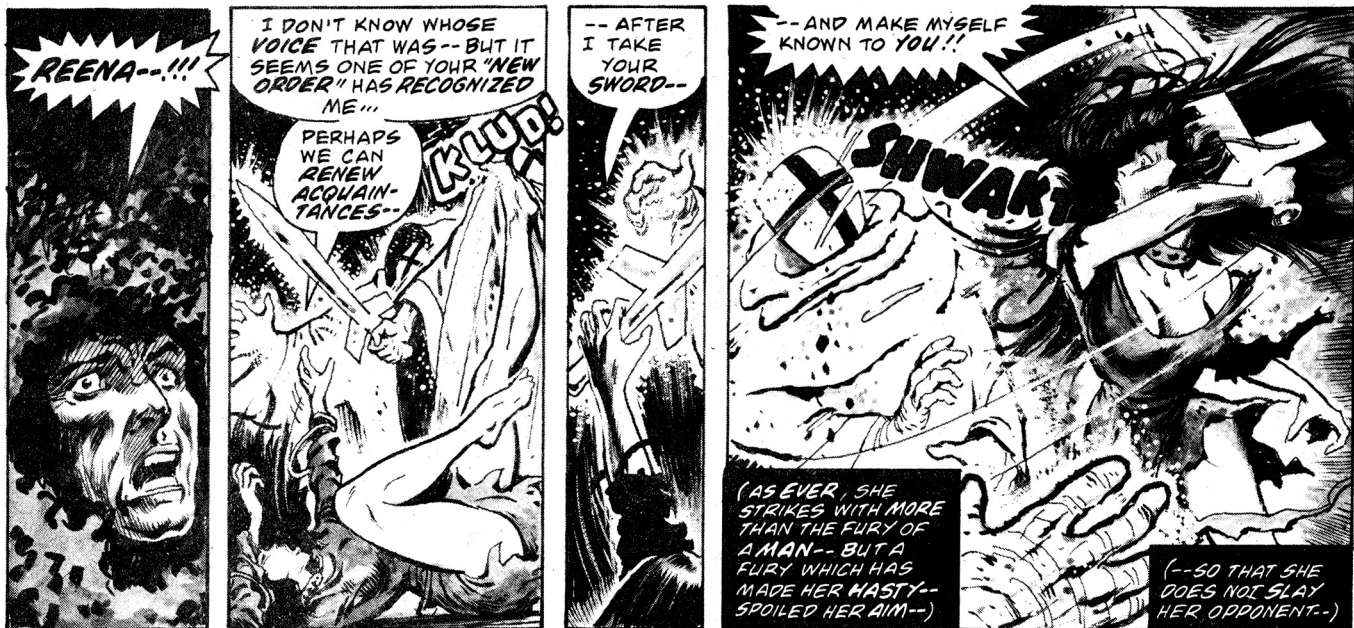
CHANK

(-- BUT THE CORD WHICH
BINDS THAT FLESH!)



NOT SO FAST, MADMAN! I
MAY BE GUILTY OF OLD SINS
APLENTY-- BUT NONE FOR
WHICH YOU'LL PUNISH ME!!

(NO!! IMPOSSIBLE--! THE
"VICTIM" IS--)





AYE-- AND IT WAS GRAYMALKYN -- WITH ALARIC AT MY SIDE!!

THEY BURST THRU THE HEDGE IN A FLURRY OF SHRED-DING LEAVES, SLASH-ING BLADES PRE-CE-DING THEM...

COME, BROTHER ALARIC-- LET US PUT AN END TO THIS FILTH CALLED THE NEW ORDER!!



IT SEEMS WE WERE BOTH RIGHT, ALARIC-- AND BOTH WRONG!!!

... FOR THE RANKS OF THIS NEW ORDER ARE FILLED WITH BEINGS WHO WERE ONCE HUMANS AND APES--



--YET WHO ARE NOW NEITHER!

THEY ARE MUTANTS, ALARIC!

WHAT DO YOU MEAN--?



MUTANTS--?

AYE-- MONSTERS CREATED BY THE ANCIENT HOLOCAUST-- BEINGS WHO WERE CHANGED BY THE RAIN OF DEATH MISTS!

YOU MEAN THESE THINGS WERE ONCE LIKE US-- NORMAL MEN AND APES--? BUT THAT'S IMPOS-SIBLE!



SAVE YOUR SHOCK FOR A BETTER TIME, CAPTAIN ALARIC!

(CAPTAIN "2" THEN SHE HAS NOT FORGOTTEN-- STILL FEELS THE ANGER!!!)

WHETHER IMPOSSIBLE OR NOT, THEY STILL EXIST-- AND THEY MEAN TO KILL EVERY ONE OF--



NOW, OLD ONE-- YOUR BLOOD SHALL STAIN THE ALTAR OF OLD SINS!!

AGH!!



