

**25¢**  
184  
MAR  
02901

# STRANGE TALES

FEATURING:  
**Dr. STRANGE**



YOU'RE FINISHED,  
STRANGE! THIS TIME  
MY MYSTIC POWERS  
ARE COMBINED WITH  
THOSE OF THE DREAD

**DORMAMMU!**

HE'S RIGHT!  
MORDO SUNTERS  
MY SPELLS AS  
IF THEY WERE  
TISSUE PAPER!



**FACE-TO-FACE WITH  
BARON MORDO!**

HANIGAN & ADAMS



# "FACE-TO-FACE AT LAST WITH BARON MORDO!"

THE MOST ORIGINAL,  
MOST TALKED-ABOUT  
NEW SERIES IN  
YEARS, RISES TO  
STILL GREATER HEIGHTS  
OF GLORY IN THIS  
MAGNIFICENT  
MARVEL EPIC!

ORIGINALLY PRESENTED IN STRANGE TALES #132



THOUGH THERE BE MANY WRITERS, NONE BUT  
**STAN LEE** COULD HAVE PENNED THIS TALE!

THOUGH THERE BE MANY ARTISTS, NONE BUT  
**STEVE DITKO** COULD HAVE DRAWN THIS TALE!

THOUGH THERE BE MANY LETTERERS, NONE BUT  
**ARTIE SIMEK** WAS AVAILABLE WHEN WE NEEDED  
HIM!

AIDED BY THE POWER OF  
THE DREAD DORMAMMU, EVIL  
BARON MORDO HAS PURSUED  
DR. STRANGE HALFWAY  
AROUND THE WORLD!

AND NOW, IN THIS NEVER-  
TO-BE FORGOTTEN EPIC--  
HE CATCHES HIM!!  
DON'T WASTE ANOTHER  
SECOND!  
START READING NOW--!



ON A BLEAK, RAIN-SWEPT EVENING IN NEW YORK, A TAXI DISCHARGES ITS SILENT, BROODING PASSENGER ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF GREENWICH VILLAGE...

WOW! A DOLLAR TIP! HEY, THANKS A LOT, MISTER!

HE DIDN'T ANSWER! MAYBE HE'S HARD-OF-HEARING!



BUT, DR. STRANGE IS FAR FROM BEING HARD-OF-HEARING! INSTEAD, HE IS CONCENTRATING INTENTLY ON HIS EVERY ACTION, FOR THE SLIGHTEST MISTAKE CAN MEAN HIS INSTANT DESTRUCTION!



HE IS CERTAIN TO HAVE A TRAP WAITING FOR ME AT MY GREENWICH VILLAGE RETREAT-- AND YET, I **MUST** CHANCE IT!



FOR, WITHIN MY SANCTUM ARE MANY MYSTIC DEVICES WHICH WILL AID ME IN LEARNING THE SOURCE OF MORDO'S NEW STRENGTH!!



BUT, I DARE NOT ENTER DIRECTLY! FIRST, I MUST SEE WHAT DANGERS AWAIT ME WITHIN!

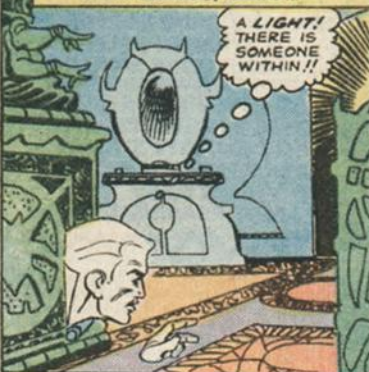


I SHALL STAND WITHIN THE SHADOWS OF THIS DARKENED DOORWAY...

...WHILST MY INVISIBLE SPIRIT FORM LEAVES MY PHYSICAL BODY WITH THE SILENCE OF A MIDNIGHT BREEZE...



SINCE NO SOLID OBJECT CAN BAR THE MOVEMENT OF AN ECTOPLASMIC BODY, DR. STRANGE'S SPIRIT FORM ENTERS HIS CHAMBER WITHIN SECONDS, TO FIND...



A LIGHT! THERE IS SOMEONE WITHIN!

IT IS INDEED FORTUNATE THAT I ACTED WITH CAUTION, FOR ONE OF MORDO'S MYSTIC DEMONS HAS BEEN STATIONED HERE-- TO AWAIT MY RETURN!



HOW SURE OF HIS POWER MUST MORDO BE, TO DARE SUCH AN INVASION OF MY DOMAIN!

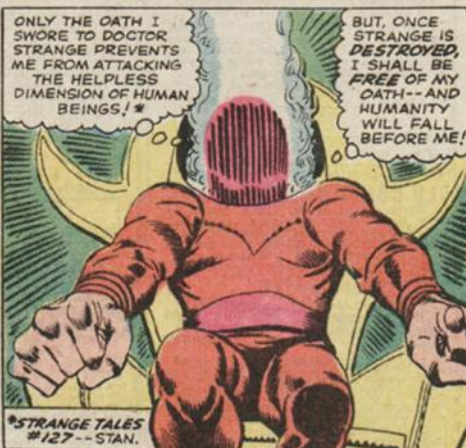




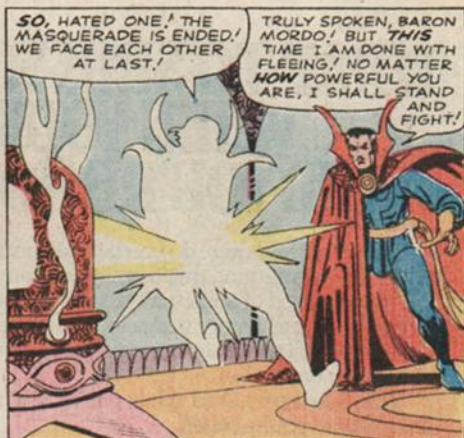








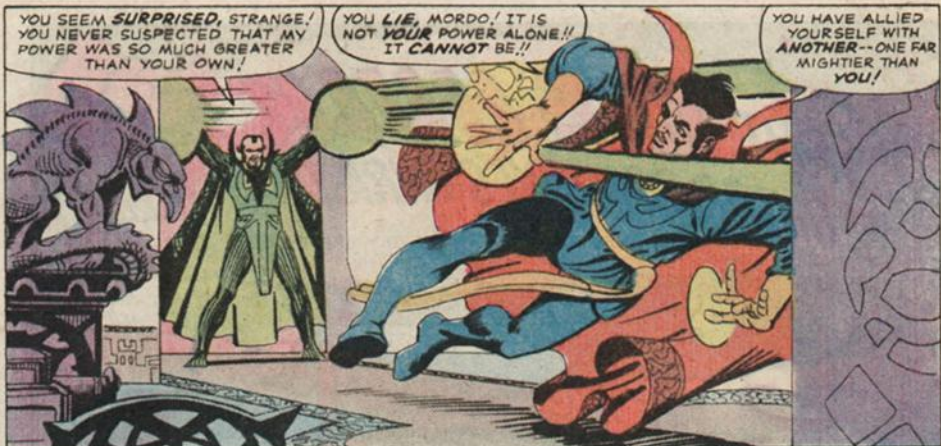




SPELL AFTER SPELL IS HURLED AT DR. STRANGE--SPELLS WITHOUT LIMIT--WITHOUT END--FOR THE SOURCE OF MORDO'S POWER COMES FROM A FAR DISTANT DIMENSION!







YOU SEEM **SURPRISED**, STRANGE!  
YOU NEVER SUSPECTED THAT MY  
POWER WAS SO MUCH GREATER  
THAN YOUR OWN!

YOU **LIE**, MORDO! IT IS  
NOT **YOUR** POWER ALONE!!  
IT CANNOT BE!!

YOU HAVE ALLIED  
YOURSELF WITH  
ANOTHER--ONE FAR  
MIGHTIER THAN  
**YOU!**



YOU ARE MERELY **GUESSING**!!  
YOU HAVE NO WAY OF **KNOWING**!!

**NOW**, WHILE I HAVE  
DISTRACTED HIM!  
I'LL STRIKE WITH  
ALL THE FORCE  
MY AMULET CAN  
MUSTER!!



**BUT**, ALTHOUGH THE SPEED OF DR. STRANGE CATCHES  
HIS EVIL ADVERSARY OFF-GUARD, IT IS TO NO AVAIL--!!

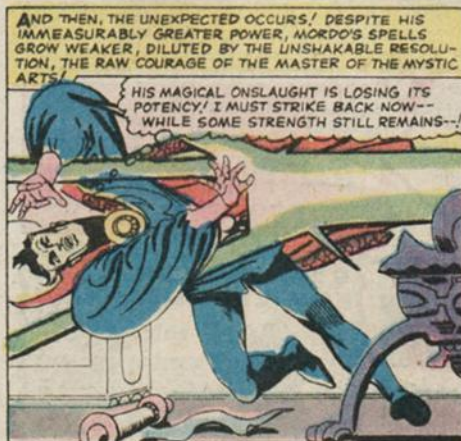
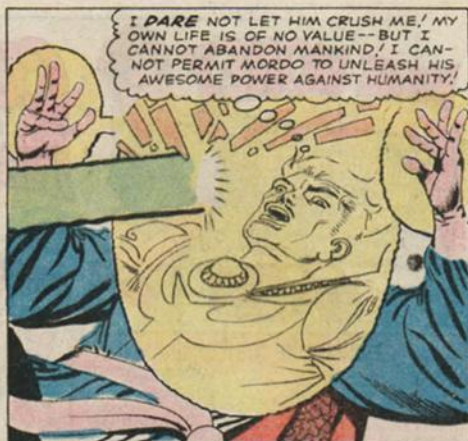
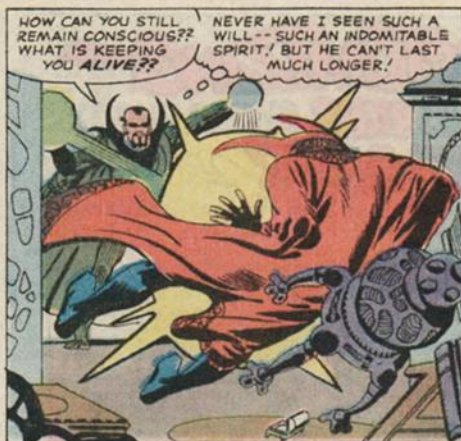
SEE HOW EASILY  
I SHRUG OFF YOUR  
WEAK ATTACK!

I WAS **RIGHT**! HE IS POSSESSED  
OF **ANOTHER** SOURCE OF POWER!  
BUT **WHOSE?**

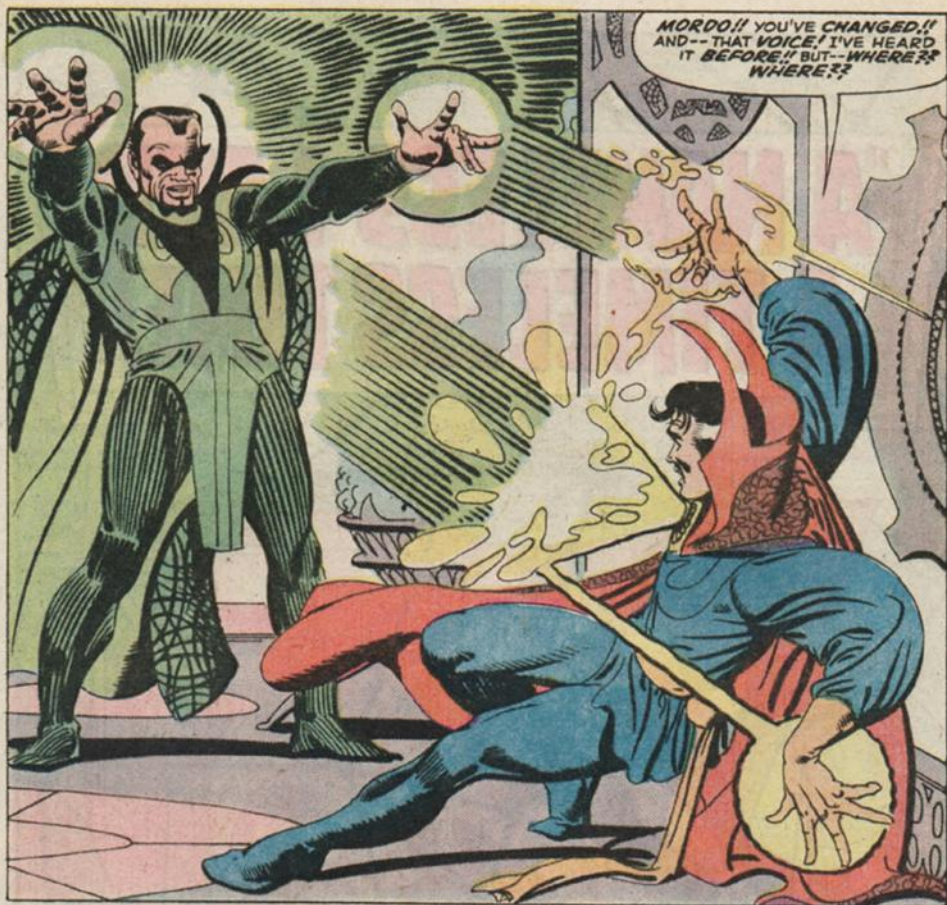


YOU STRUGGLE TO GAIN **TIME**! YOU  
HOPE TO DISCOVER HOW I HAVE  
GAINED MY GREAT POWER, AND  
THUS FIND A WAY TO DEFEAT ME!  
BUT, YOUR TIME HAS **RUN OUT**,  
DR. STRANGE!









MORDO!! YOU'VE CHANGED!!  
AND-- THAT VOICE! I'VE HEARD  
IT BEFORE!! BUT-- WHERE??  
WHERE??



OF COURSE!! OF COURSE!!  
I SHOULD HAVE GUESSED!  
I SHOULD HAVE KNOWN!



BUT THEN, THERE IS  
NO MORE TIME FOR  
GUESSING-- FOR  
PLANNING--



AS THE DARKNESS  
GATHERS, THERE IS  
TIME FOR NOTHING--!



NOTHING, SAVE THE  
THUNDEROUS SILENCE  
OF THE SWIRLING  
STYGIAN VOID!

**END  
PART I**



# "A NAMELESS LAND, A TIMELESS TIME!"

## PART II

EVEN THE MIGHTY MYSTIC POWER OF *DR. STRANGE* IS NO MATCH FOR BOTH THE EVIL *BARON MORDO* AND THE DREAD *DORMAMMU*! THIS, OUR FIRST CHAPTER SHOWED HOW THE DAUNTLESS SORCERER KEPT FIGHTING ON, THOUGH HE BATTLED IMPOSSIBLE ODDS, UNTIL... AT THE LAST MOMENT BEFORE DEFEAT... THE DARKNESS GATHERS ABOUT HIM...

ORIGINALLY PRESENTED IN *STRANGE TALES* # 133



AND, AS THE EARTHLY FORM OF DR. STRANGE FADES INTO NOTHINGNESS, THE HEAVY SILENCE IS BROKEN BY BARON NORDO'S TRIUMPHANT CHORTLE...

**DORMAMMU!!** DID YOU WITNESS MY VICTORY? THANKS TO YOUR GREAT POWER, ADDED TO MY OWN, I HAVE FINALLY DESTROYED DR. STRANGE!

NOW, ONCE I FIND THE FEEBLE ANCIENT ONE AND SLAY HIM, TOO, NO MAGICIAN ON EARTH WILL BE MY EQUAL!

NOT SO, OVERCONFIDENT ONE! STRANGE HAS ESCAPED YOU! HE STILL LIVES!

**NO! NO!** IT CAN'T BE! YOU'RE SAYING THAT TO TORTURE ME! YOU SAID HIM FADE INTO NOTHINGNESS... YOU MUST HAVE SEEN IT!

**BAH!** COULD YOU NOT GENSE THAT HE SUMMONED ALL HIS REMAINING POWER AND MERELY TRANSPORTED HIMSELF OUT OF YOUR OWN DIMENSION!

HEAR ME, DREADED DORMAMMU! YOU MUST INCREASE MY POWER STILL MORE, SO THAT I CAN FOLLOW HIM! WE MUST NOT LET HIM ESCAPE US NOW!

**SILENCE!!** THE DIMENSIONS OF INFINITY ARE ENDLESS! YOU COULD NEVER FIND HIM! YOUR ONLY HOPE IS TO WAIT! SOONER OR LATER, HE WILL RETURN... PROVIDED HE SURVIVES HIS UNKNOWN JOURNEY!

AND, AS THE DREAD DORMAMMU BREAKS OFF COMMUNICATION WITH HIS EVIL ALLY, OTHER EARS ALSO HAVE HEARD HIS PRONOUNCEMENT...

REMAIN WHERE YOU ARE! THOUGH THE WAIT SEEMS ETERNAL YOU MUST NOT LEAVE! I HAVE SPOKEN!

IT IS AS I FEARED! THE DREADED ONE HIMSELF IS SEEKING REVENGE ON DR. STRANGE.

OF ALL THOSE WHO HAVE ENTERED THIS DARK DIMENSION ONLY DR. STRANGE EVER TRIUMPHED OVER DORMAMMU!

AND ONLY STRANGE, EARTH'S MASTER OF BLACK MAGIC EVER BEFRIENDED ME, AND MY PEOPLE.\*

\*SEEN IN STRANGE TALES #127...STAN.

IF ONLY I COULD REACH HIM... WARN HIM! BUT THERE IS NO WAY! AS THE DREADED ONE SAID, THERE ARE DIMENSIONS WITHOUT END WITHIN THIS UNIVERSE... AND NONE CAN KNOW WHICH ONE WILL CLAIM DR. STRANGE!



AND, EVEN AS THE DISTRAUGHT FEMALE PONDERS THE FATE OF THE FLEEING MAGICIAN, A SHAPELESS FORM HURTLING THROUGH THE INFINITE, AT A SPEED BEYOND HUMAN COMPREHENSION.



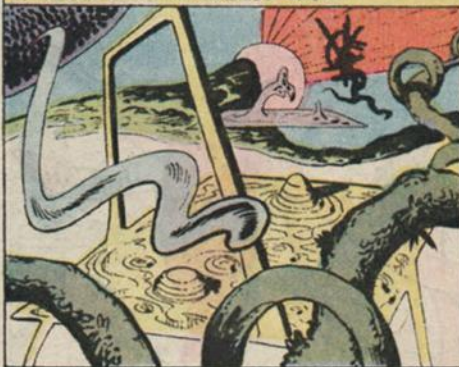
PASSING FROM DIMENSION TO DIMENSION THE FORM PLUNGES ON, LOSING ITSELF IN THE MYSTIC MAZE OF INFINITY...



PROPELLED BY A SPELL SO POWERFUL, SO IRRESISTIBLE, THAT IT SHATTERS EVERY OBSTACLE, EVERY BARRIER WHICH STANDS IN ITS WAY!



UNTIL, AT LAST, THE ENERGY OF THE SPELL IS EXHAUSTED. AND THE SPEEDING, LIVING ENTITY SLOWS ITS PACE. COMING TO REST IN A DIFFERENT DIMENSION... A NAMELESS LAND... A TIMELESS TIME!



SLOWLY, SILENTLY, THE ETHEREAL FORM BEGINS TO ASSUME A HUMAN SHAPE AS THE FLIGHT COMES TO ITS END, AN UNIMAGINABLE DISTANCE FROM THE WORLD WE KNOW AS EARTH!



AND THEN, THE JOURNEY DONE, DR. STRANGE OPENS HIS PIERCING EYES ONCE MORE...

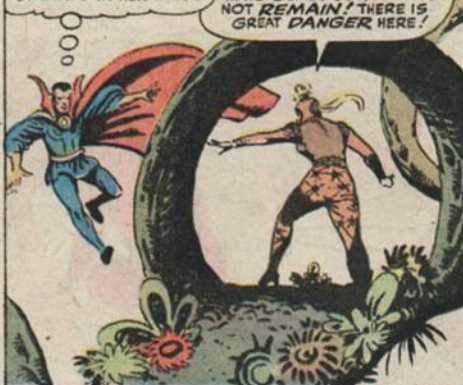


BY USING THE FORCE OF MORDO'S OWN POWER TO TRIGGER MY FINAL SPELL, I HAVE ESCAPED TO ANOTHER DIMENSION! BUT, WHAT NEW DANGERS MIGHT BE AWAITING ME HERE?

SUDDENLY, I SENSE ANOTHER PRESENCE NEAR ME!! BUT WHO...??

A FEMALE FORM! WITH FEAR AND ALARM SHOWING IN HER EYES!

I KNOW NOT WHO YOU ARE, NOR FROM WHENCE YOU HAVE COME! BUT, YOU MUST NOT REMAIN! THERE IS GREAT DANGER HERE!







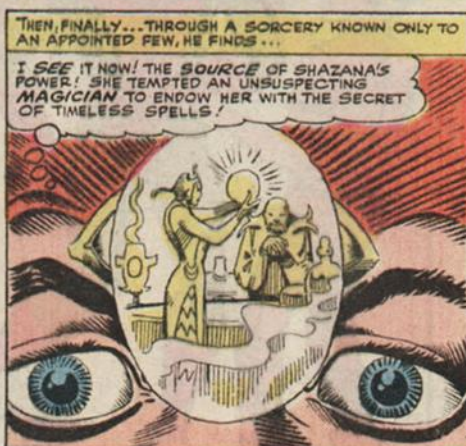
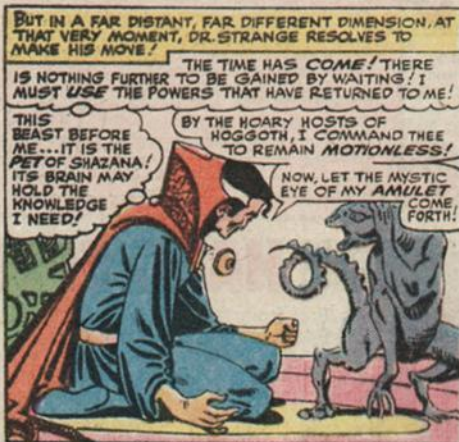














AND, ONCE SHE HAD GAINED THE POWER, SHE HUNGERED FOR, SHE GAVE THE ONE WHO HAD VIOLATED HIS MYSTIC OATHS HIS **REWARD**.. SHE DEMONSTRATED HER SKILL AS A PUPIL BY **ANNIHILATING** HIM!



THEN, TO SAFEGUARD THE SOURCE OF HER POWER FOR ALL TIME, SHE CONCEALED HER NEW-FOUND MYSTIC SYMBOL GLOBE BENEATH THE ROYAL THRONE ITSELF!



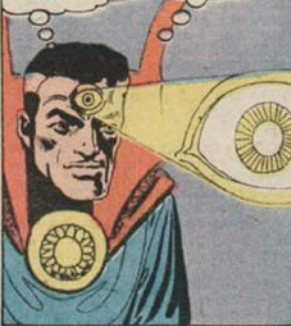
THUS, ARMED WITH THE USURPED RITES OF SORCERY, SHAZANA EASILY DEFEATED HER HALF-SISTER, AND MADE THE THRONE HER OWN! MY AMULET HAS SERVED ME WELL THIS DAY!



FOR, I HAVE TRULY GAINED THE GREATEST POWER OF ALL ... THAT WHICH IS THE FOUNTAINHEAD OF ALL OTHER POWER ... I HAVE GAINED THE GIFT OF **KNOWLEDGE!**

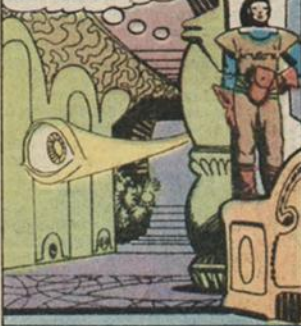


NOW I KNOW WHAT MUST BE DONE ... AND ONCE AGAIN THE MYSTIC EYE SHALL HELP ME DO IT!



IT MUST GO FORTH ON A SILENT SEARCH ...TILL IT FINDS THE ONE I SEEK!

NOTHING CAN HALT ITS PROGRESS...NOTHING CAN SEE OR HEAR IT... NOTHING CAN SUSPECT ITS OCCULT PRESENCE... UNLESS **DR. STRANGE** SO WISHES!



FINALLY, THE ENCHANTED EYE REACHES ITS DESTINATION, AND THEN ...

OBEY MY INSTRUCTIONS AND HAVE NO FEAR! ALL WILL BE WELL!

YOU MUST COME TO ME AT ONCE! NONE SHALL STOP YOU!



AND SO... BY THE CRIMSON BANDS OF CYTTORAK, YOU SHALL BELIEVE MY WORDS! I CAN DEFEAT SHAZANA! YOU MUST SUMMON OTHERS, WHO CAN BE TRUSTED.

THERE ARE MANY WHO WOULD GIVE THEIR LIVES TO END HER TYRANNY! I SHALL OBEY YOU!





TRUE TO HER WORD, THE CHAMBER IS SOON ALIVE WITH MANY FIGURES...

SO THAT NONE WILL DOUBT ME, I SHALL DEMONSTRATE MY MASTERY OF THE MYSTIC ARTS! SEE HOW EFFORTLESSLY I FLOAT IN THE AIR, USING THE POWER OF MY CLOAK OF LEVITATION!



I SHALL FLOAT SILENTLY TO THE THRONE ROOM NOW, WHILE YOU INSURE THAT NONE WARN SHAZANA UNTIL I GIVE THE COMMAND! IT SHALL BE DONE!



MEANWHILE, WITHIN THE CAPTIVE THRONE ROOM, THE EVIL SORCERESS FLIES INTO A FIT OF AWESOME RAGE....

YOU CALL THOSE PETTY BAUBLES TRIBUTE FOR SHAZANA?!



BEGONE!! RETURN WITH FAR GREATER TREASURES FOR ME, OR YOUR VERY LIVES SHALL BE FORFEIT! THE AUDIENCE IS ENDED!



NOW TO DEAL WITH MY POWERLESS CAPTIVE!

WHY DOES SHE NOT SENSE OUR PRESENCE?

WE ARE PROTECTED BY A SIMPLE SPELL OF CONCEALMENT.



WHAT UNPARDONABLE TREASON HAS BEEN COMMITTED HERE??! THE PRISONER IS GONE!!



HE HAD NOT THE MEANS TO ESCAPE UNAIDED! I MUST RETURN TO MY THRONE... TO MY MYSTIC GLOBE... THE SOURCE OF MY GREAT POWER!



THEN, WHOSOEVER ABETTED HIS ESCAPE SHALL SURELY PERISH!

AND, WITHIN THE VAST THRONE ROOM ITSELF, WE FIND...

YOUR AMULET! IT GLOWS WITH THE AURA OF A LIVING THING!!

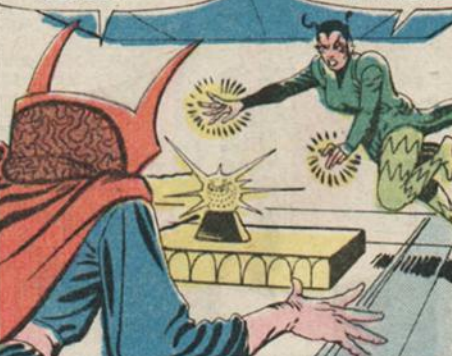


IT IS FEEDING UPON THE POWER WHICH LIES BENEATH THAT THRONE!



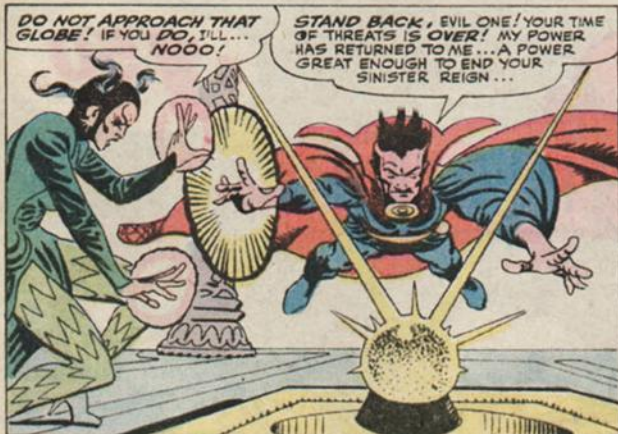
SEE HOW THE THRONE ITSELF IS FADING AWAY... INTO NOTHINGNESS!

NOW, ALL THAT REMAINS IS THE WELLSPRING OF SHAZANA'S EVIL POWER... THE GLEAMING, PULSATING GLOBE!



YOU!! YOU DARED ENTER HERE??! FOR THIS, NO PUNISHMENT CAN BE SEVERE ENOUGH!





DO NOT APPROACH THAT GLOBE! IF YOU DO, I'LL...  
NOOO!

STAND BACK, EVIL ONE! YOUR TIME OF THREATS IS OVER! MY POWER HAS RETURNED TO ME... A POWER GREAT ENOUGH TO END YOUR SINISTER REIGN...



...FOREVER!!



MY MYSTIC GLOBE IS GONE! NOT A TRACE OF IT REMAINS! BUT...I...I'M POWERLESS WITHOUT IT!

WHICH MEANS I AM RIGHTFUL QUEEN AGAIN...AND FREEDOM SHALL RETURN TO THIS LAND!

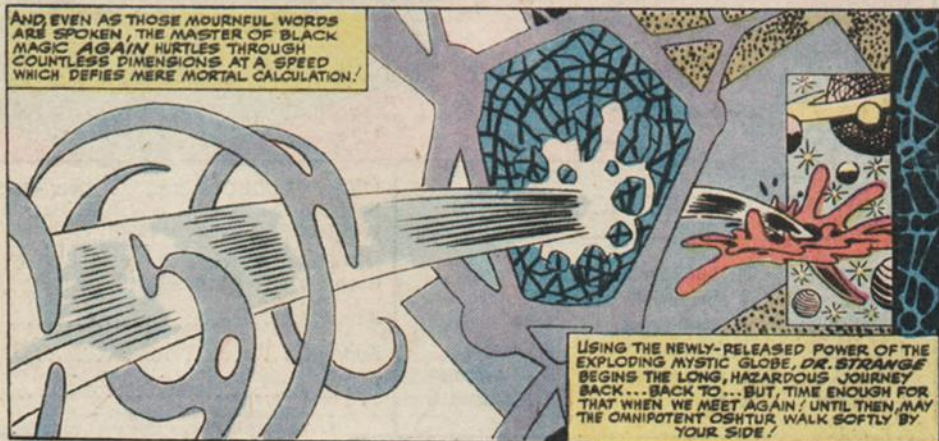
HAIL TO OUR NEW SOVEREIGN...OUR RIGHTFUL QUEEN! SHAZANA SHALL RULE US NO LONGER!



THE EVIL ONE WILL NEED LITTLE PUNISHMENT, MY QUEEN! THE SHOCK OF HER DEFEAT HAS UNSEATED HER MIND!

NOTHING CAN DEFEAT ME! I AM SHAZANA! MY PEOPLE LOVE ME! THEY LOVE SHAZANA, THE KIND... THE JUST...!

IT IS BEST THIS WAY! BUT, THE STRANGER... HE IS GONE! SHALL I NEVER SEE HIM AGAIN??



AND, EVEN AS THOSE MOURNFUL WORDS ARE SPOKEN, THE MASTER OF BLACK MAGIC AGAIN HURTLING THROUGH COUNTLESS DIMENSIONS AT A SPEED WHICH DEFIES MERE MORTAL CALCULATION!

USING THE NEWLY-RELEASED POWER OF THE EXPLODING MYSTIC GLOBE, DR. STRANGE BEGINS THE LONG, HAZARDOUS JOURNEY BACK...BACK TO...BUT, TIME ENOUGH FOR THAT WHEN WE MEET AGAIN! UNTIL THEN, MAY THE OMNIPOTENT OSHTUR WALK SOFTLY BY YOUR SIDE!