

The ruler of Atlantis, member of the Invaders, Avengers, and Defenders, sometime enemy of humanity and widely thought of as the first mutant, he is the Sub-Mariner, he is Imperius Rex, he is...



Issue #1

"TRAPPED IN ANOTHER WORLD" Part I - Attack of the Frightful Four

by Douglas Ketcham

(NOTE: This takes place after The Black Veil story arc in The Defenders)

The Atlantic Ocean

Namor, the Sub-Mariner, king of Atlantis, seemed to glide across the sea. He had recently traded in his speedos for his green "Savage Sub-Mariner" outfit, at the insentience of his newly resurrected wife, Marrina*, who felt it gave the impression that he was "available". Though all of Atlantis would know about their new queen, she made it clear that the surface world would not.

* (See Marvel 2000's Alpha Flight #13 and Marvel Fanfare #18 for the full-story - Doug)

It didn't matter to him. He would be happy in anything as long as he was in the sea. A trip to Hell would do that to you*

* (See said Defenders arc - Doug)

Namor smiled and laughed as he glided. When he was a child, he explored the Antarctic Atlantis. He still knows where everything was. However, by the time he had arrived at the new Atlantis (or rather old, as it was the original siteDoug), he was King, and had no time to explore. Now though, he savored the looks.

Still, this was not a time for relaxation. This morning, an injured man had arrived at the palace. He had demanded help from him. He claimed he and his wife were at the outer-areas of Atlantis, where they were attacked by the barbarous hordes of Attuma! They let him go, to tell Namor that he didn't come for a fight, she would

die.

Attuma was also a coward, he thought to himself. It was only a couple of months ago that the barbarian kidnapped his son, Maaken*. It seemed that Attuma would always threaten his throne.

* (Marvel Fanfare #18 again - Doug)

He spied ahead. There was a sunken ship. That was where the man had claimed Attuma was holding her. And sure enough, the barbarian was standing there, ready for a fight. Hmm. Strange, the fiend is without his army, Namor wondered.

"NAMOR! Prepare to die at the hands of Attuma!" roared the barbarian.

"Never, coward! IMPERIUS REX!" yelled the noble king as he struck Attuma. Attuma fell back 50 yards. Namor was surprised. Attuma should have been able to resist the punch. And Namor was even more surprised when he didn't get up. Nevermind that. I have to save the girl, Namor thought to himself.

Namor entered the ship. It sent shivers down his spine. Skeletons abounded. Judging by the letters and symbols, this was a Soviet ship, which probably went down in the late 1980s. He wondered what caused its doom. There was a hole, but it seemed to have been made after.

"Namor, help" a voice cried out.

There was something familiar about that voice, but he couldn't put his finger on it.

"I hear you. Where are you?" the king of Atlantis asked.

"I'm in the engine room. But watch out for the robot".

"Robot-?" Namor started when a blast of energy hit him. He got up to see a 10-foot mechanical figure.

"Unit SG-49 status report. Intruder located. Will now proceed to terminate"*

* (Translated from Russian - Doug)

Namor dodged a blast. I don't get it. How come neither she nor Attuma were attacked by the robot? He dodged another blast.

No time to ponder questions now. He tried to punch the robot. However, it ducked, and punched the Sub-Mariner himself!

Namor fell to the ground. He started to get up, when SG-49 grabbed him and put him in a headlock! Namor groaned. But he would not loose. He grabbed the robot and flipped him!

"Unit damaged. Now going to 100% power".

SG-98 grabbed Namor and delivered a shock to him. The Sub-Mariner groaned in pain. But he would not fail!

"IMPERIUS REX!" he yelled as he laid a huge punch to the robot. The machine fell back, and some of the metal fell off. It grabbed Namor, and gave him the strongest shock yet. However, the Sub-Mariner grabbed the robot and slammed it on the ground. The robot tried to get up, but it was already defeated, and fell for good. He rushed into the engine room. He saw the cowering Atlantean woman.

"You are safe now. Attuma and the robot are defeated" he announced. The woman looked relieved. Then, she started to laugh.
And change.

"No...." Namor whispered as he saw the figure.

"But it is, Namor".

It was Llyra, queen of Lemuria. Llyra, who was responsible for the death of his first wife, Lady Dorma. Llyra, who along with Tiger Shark, was responsible for the death of his father.

She then punched him, knocking him out.

Quentin Beck, also known as Mysterio, was not in a happy mood.

"Dammit!" he yelled as he threw the controller onto the deck of the ship. "Namor is even more powerful than Spider-Man. My Attuma robot is beyond repair".

"And I suppose you had a great plan that involved it", said the genius known as the Wizard. Standing behind him was a grotesque heavily muscled figure, once known as Dr. Calvin Zabo, but now known to the world as Mr. Hyde.

"Will you two stop playing with toys?! I want to crush the Fantastic Four, then Captain America, then Thor, then everyone else!" he yelled.

"And you will, Mr. Hyde. Especially since I have increased your strength" the Wizard replied. Now to wait for the next member of the Frightful Four, he thought. Following his recent defeat* the Wizard went into hiding.

* (Marvel 2000's Fantastic Four #25-26 - Doug)

He eventually met Boris Kruschov, a former KGB agent. He was now working for something called the 'Industrial Mafia'*.

* (See Marvel Fanfare #30 for what this organization is [just a shameless plug] - Doug).

The agent was interested in getting some designs of the Wizard, and in exchange, gave him some information about a sunken Soviet ship that carried an interesting device. It was a machine that could send a signal that would cause machines to go haywire. If he could use it on the Baxter Building, it would be an excellent time to attack.

First though, he had to assemble his Frightful Four. First, since the device was in the ocean, he needed a sea-living being. He had worked with two such beings. He quickly ruled out Hydro-Man, who he deemed too dumb and arrogant to handle the job. Thus, he turned to an old member of the team, Llyra, the queen of Lemuria, who joined the Frightful Four in a plot to destroy both Namor and Spider-Man*.

* (The Amazing Spider-Man #213 to 215 - Doug)

However, she would only agree if Namor were worked into the plot. They came up a plan, but it would need an illusionist to help. So he turned to a former Special Effects director, now known as Mysterio. To take on the Thing, the Wizard realized, he would need strength. Thus, he made a bargain with Mr. Hyde, offering to improve his formula and increase his strength. He similarly made a bargain with Mysterio, to improve his devices.

Just then, bubbles started to appear in the water. A green-tinted woman jumped out, with a strange device in her hands.

"Here, Wizard. Your device. Now, we will finish off Namor" she announced.

"In time Llyra. Now, however, we will destroy the Fantastic Four" the Wizard replied.

Llyra glared angrily. "Listen, Wizard! I thought I made it clear that I would only join your pathetic band if Namor were our first victim! Apparently, I didn't. Do I have to remind you?"

The Wizard used all his willpower not to look scared. After all, Llyra was almost as strong as Namor, a being who was one of the few able to beat the Incredible Hulk! Not even Hyde could compete with that power.

"My dear, would we not be better prepared for Namor with the devices of Reed Richards? Has the Fantastic Four not beaten him several times?"

"Only because of his attraction to the Invisible Woman"

"Perhaps. But still, with them, we can not loose!"

Llyra started at him. An evil smile began to form. "Very well, Wizard. But next time, grovel".

Namor slowly got up.

I have to catch that witch, he thought.

He saw a boat slowly move. He was too weak after the battle with the robot to follow at the moment. But he would find them soon enough!

NEXT ISSUE: The Frightful Four attack the Baxter Building! Luckily, Namor arrives! But a less-benevolent being is coming too! Guest-starring the Fantastic Four!

ALTERNATING CURRENTS

Welcome to the first issue of Marvel 2000's Namor: The Sub-Mariner!

I have already written five back-to-back issues of Marvel Fanfare (26-30) starting Godzilla. In fact, Godzilla was responsible for my interest in Namor, and Marvel in general.

When I learned that Marvel did a Godzilla comic in the 1970s, I started to look for information about it. Though I didn't find much on it (most likely because Marvel is afraid Toho will sue their pants off), I learned about Marvel characters. I already knew the basics from the 1990s cartoons, Fantastic Four, X-Men, Iron Man, Spider-Man, Incredible Hulk, etc. I even knew about some of the lesser-known characters such as Dr. Strange from them. However, Namor was one I learned about, and took an interest in.

I think Namor is a very underrated character. He was the first Marvel character, and along with the original Human Torch and Captain America carried the company until the 1960s. Without him, no X-Men, no Spider-Man, etc. Also, he was the first anti-hero, killing enemies way before the Punisher, Wolverine, and Cable took to the streets. And he was taking on Nazis and sea monsters, not drug dealers.

Anyway, what can you expect during my run? Well, villains will include such traditional Namor foes such as Attuma, Krang (no, not the brain from Dimension X, for you who read TMNT), and U-Man, as well as ones who haven't met Namor before, and some new creations by me.

So, get ready for some adventures both on the surface and under the sea.

IMPERIUS REX!

- Douglas Ketcham

Issue #2

"TRAPPED IN ANOTHER WORLD" Part II - Assault on the Baxter Building

by *Douglas Ketcham*

The boat sailed up into the docks of Manhattan. Out of it stepped four figures.

First was the Wizard. Once, he was a celebrity. A champion chess-player and master strategists, he was thought to be the smartest man since Albert Einstein. That was, until four humans were exposed with cosmic radiation and became the Fantastic Four. Almost immediately, he was forgotten. What were his guineas minds compared to the wonder of the four marvels? Indeed, his mind paled in comparison to Reed Richards or Hank Pym. Soon, bitterness got the best of him, and he attempted to kill the Human Torch, only to be foiled. He tried again, and again, eventually becoming the Wizard, leader of the Frightful Four.

Next was Llyra. Her origin parallels that of the Sub-Mariner. Her father was a Lemurain who fell in love with an air-breathing mother. The result was she. However, she became manipulative, eventually gaining the throne of Lemuria. However, it was Atlantis, and Namor, whom she wanted. She had her own reasons for joining the Frightful Four. Once the Fantastic Four was done with, she would reveal her true plans for Namor to them.

Next was a huge, disgusting creature. Dr. Calvin Zabo was once a scientist obsessed with Robert Louis Stevenson's *The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*. He became an expert in chemistry, and came up with a chemical that transformed him into a monster, strong enough to fight the mighty Thor! He was even stronger now, thanks to the Wizard. He could not wait to crush the Thing's skull in his fist. Then, the Wizard will make his new strength permanent, and he would crush all those who wronged him.

Finally, there was Mysterio. Quentin Beck was once one of the industries tops special effects designers. But Beck grew tired of his backstage role and wanted something greater. One day a friend jokingly told him to take out one of the new costumed crime-fighters, if he wanted to make a name for himself. Beck took the idea to heart and he attempted to frame Spider-Man. However, the web-slinger proved him innocent, and Mysterio became a villain. He joined the Wizard because he offered to improve his technology.

"How long will this take Wizard?" Llyra angrily asked.

"Patient, my dear. Once we take on the Fantastic Four, we will go after Namor. You want him dead,

after all"

Llyra was about to yell the truth at him, but then restrained herself.

"Now, let's go. TO VICTORY!"

William Peck, former M-15 agent and now a member of Widow's Peak's Enterprises, sighed as a woman caught his eyes. She had blonde hair, was quite attractive, and looked like the devil himself was chasing her.

"What's the trouble miss?" he asked her.

"Someone's chasing me. Please, help me!"

Peck quickly turned to grab his gun, only to be hit from behind. Llyra grinned.

"You can come in now, Wizard".

Namor flew out of the sea, looking for any sign of his foes. Just then, he heard an explosion! He flew up, to see smoke coming from the Baxter Building.

So, Llyra has involved herself with the Fantastic Four

"FLAME ON!" yelled Johnny Storm, changing into the famous form of the Human Torch.

Mysterio laughed, armed with a flame-thrower, burning everything in sight.

"I don't know what you're laughing at, fish-bowl head, though I know what I am. I mean, why don't you drop an atomic bomb on Godzil-?"

His laughs were cut short as his flame was drowsed.

"The Wizard has improved my illusions, Torch. For example, this flame-thrower is actually a house!"

However, the other three are too busy to help the Torch at the moment, as Mr. Hyde holds an unconscious Mr. Fantastic!

"All right, gruesome. Let stretcho go! It's me you wanna fight, right?" the Thing said, trying to get the monster to let Richards go.

"I would rather fight the Hulk or Thor, but then, I suppose I'll start by destroying the first powerhouse!"

Hyde tossed the limp hero to the side, and started to charge the Thing. However, a figure struck him, knocking him down.

"If you want that, Hyde, then you prepare to face Namor the Sub-Mariner!"

The being saw the portal opening.

Ah, another chance to conquer. Soon Annihilus will rule!

Namor was hurled to the floor.

"I'll kill ya, fish-man!" yelled Hyde.

Just then, something started to hold him.

"Don't tell me you forgot me?" said Susan Richards, the Invisible Woman, using a force field to hold Hyde back! However, she was knocked behind.

"LLYRA!" Namor yelled, as he punched her, and the two started to battle.

The Wizard then came into the room. Soon, he would triumph.

Just then, he noticed something. The gateway to the Negative Zone. Something was coming through. To his horror, Annihilus appeared!

He had encountered the Negative Zone tyrant once*, and had no will to do so again!

* (Marvel Team-Up #2 - Douglas)

"Frightful Four! Retreat!" he commanded,

"What!?! We're winning!" complained Hyde.

However, the appearance of Annihilus ceased his complaining.

The Frightful Four escaped. Namor hesitated. He wanted Llyra. But Annihilus was the present danger.

"IMPERIUS REX!" he yelled, as he punched Annihilus and both went into the Negative Zone!

Namor fell through the Negative Zone, it's awesome gravity pulling through the space.

Just then, he saw a light. It seemed like the entrance! He entered the gateway, and vanished!

Namor got up. He saw what looked like New York, though it was ruined. Not only that, but it seemed like the 1940s!

Just then, there was a burst of flame that knocked him away. As he started, an angry Human Torch approached.

Issue #3

"TRAPPED IN ANOTHER WORLD" Part III - To Fight... The Avengers?

by *Douglas Ketcham*

"I don't know what you're doing here, Namor, but you're stupid if you think we're not going to pass this up!" yelled the Human Torch, whom by the voice, Namor realized was Jim Hammond, the android, not Johnny Storm.

"What are you talking about, Torch!?" yelled Namor.

Just then, a blast of electricity hit him. He turned to see what looked like Spider-Man, though in an armored suit.

"Nice job, Peter," said a small woman flying around, whom Namor recognized as the Wasp.

"Keep firing, but keep your distance. If Namor gets close, it's over. I'll go on reconnaissance. The Enforcers are probably near" she continued.

"I'm confused Torch, but if you do not cease, I will show no mercy!" yelled Namor, his patience wearing thin.

Just then, several lampposts burst out of the street. They started to strangle Namor.

"Neither will Magneto, murderer!" yelled a man, whom indeed looked and sounded like the self-proclaimed savior of mutants.

Namor pulled the metal off of him. He was confused, but he would no longer stand while he was attacked.

"IMPERIUS REX!" he yelled, striking Magneto.

"No one harms my father!" yelled a woman he recognized as the Scarlet Witch. "In the name of the dread Dormammu, by the power of the deathless Vishanti, I call upon the hosts of Hoggoth! Heed the words of thy mortal servant!"

Namor recognized those words! Dr. Strange used them when casting a spell. All of a sudden, he

started to be forced to the ground! He groaned in agony.

"Now, Hercules shall fight thou!" called a voice. The Prince of Power struck Namor.

Namor struggled as he tried to avoid Hercules' punches and the spell. Using his strength, he busted out, and went into the sky.

Just then, he cried out in pain. He turned to see the Vision, who was sticking his hand in the Sub-Mariner! He turned and garbed the Vision's arm, crushing his arm.

"VISION!" cried the Scarlet Witch.

"Do not worry, my love, I am fine," the synthoid replied. Just then, a huge punch came to Namor's jaw. A hard one.

"HULK SMASH!"

"Hulk, I thought you grew out of this stage. However, this is making less sense every second," the Sub-Mariner replied as he punched the Green Goliath. Just then, he was kicked farther. He then saw someone he hadn't seen in half a century. However, he remembered her like it was only today.

"Namora?"

Unknown to both Namor and the warriors he was fighting, someone was watching him.

"Well, this is interesting," commented the cold voice of Tony Shark, or 'Iron Death' as his comrades called him for his metallic suits.

"The Emperor shall be interested in this," he said, turning off the screen.

Namor was immediately struck. However, his confusion seemed to block the pain. Namora died years ago, in Lemuria, another loved one lost to Llyra.

"Namor, how are you? - "

"Beating you, monster!?! You know well I am almost as strong as you!"

The Wasp spoke up.

"All right, Avengers. Strike now, and strike hard!" she ordered.

Avengers?

He did not have time as the Human Torch's fire balls, Spider-Man's cannon, Wasp's sting, the Scarlet Witch's beam, and the Vision's eye beams struck him.

Iron Death walked through the halls of the Atlantean chamber. This was home to a man who ruled 98% of the world. A 12-foot man stepped up.

"Hey, Stark. What are you doing here?" asked Goliath, or Hank Pym, another of the emperor's scientist/warrior.

"Quiet. I have some interesting news."

They walked into the throne room. A pair of eyes started at them. Stark bowed down.

"I have news of the Avengers, Lord Namor the First."

The Hulk, Hercules, and Namora came rushing towards the Sub-Mariner.

"IMPERIUS REX!" he yelled, striking Hercules. He then picked up the limp body and threw it at the Hulk, knocking him down.

Namora then punched him. Namor was about to raise his fist and strike her down, but stopped. Namora stopped as well surprised at the humanity her cousin was showing.

"HULK SMASH!" yelled the green juggernaut, whom jumped on Namor.

"What do you mean I am in battle with the Avengers!?" yelled Emperor Namor at Iron Death.

"As impossible as it seems, my drones do show someone remarkably similar to you fighting them," replied the armored warrior.

Namor thought for a moment. He then spoke.

"This matter requires looking into. Iron Death, take Warrior Woman, Namorita, and Kyrotorak with you."

Out of the shadows, a German woman in black leather and armed with a whip appeared. Following this was an Atlantean woman, armed with a sword. Finally, out of the shadows, a crouching black, almost ape-like, thing appeared, with blades sticking out of him.

The Avengers surrounded the Sub-Mariner. He glared at them. He charged at them, knocking down Magneto. The Scarlet Witch sent a blast at him. Just then, Spider-Man fired at the air.

"YOU!" he yelled.

Just then, a woman Namor recognized as Andromeda appeared.

"Hi, Spidey," she said in a taunting voice.

"THE ENFORCERS! SPAN OUT!" the Wasp commanded.

The Hulk and Hercules were blasted by Iron Death. Magneto, just getting up from Namor's attack, felt his neck closing. He turned to see Warrior Woman's whip wrapped around his neck.

The Scarlet Witch immediately prepared to help her father. However, Kryotorak appeared and started to choke her as well!

"WANDA!" the Vision yelled, and immediately became transparent, entering the demon. However, he needed not, as Wanda threw the creature off her, blasting the former Nazi as well.

Meanwhile, Spider-Man and the Wasp were battling Namorita.

"Oh, man. They get the big guys, and I have to deal with insects," she commented.

The Wasp flew around her face, frustrating the Atleantean. Spider-Man then blasted her.

"And for the record, spiders are arachnids."

Meanwhile, the Torch was in the air, battling Iron Death.

"Face it, Torch. You're outdated. You represent the best of the 30s, while I only use the best of the 21st century!"

"Ask me if I give a damn!" yelled the Torch as he charged. However, Iron Man dodged!

"New suit. Very fast," he commented. He was about to blow the Torch to pieces, when Namor struck him! The armored warlord fell to the ground.

"RETREAT!" yelled Warrior Woman. The Enforcers quickly left, with the exception of Iron Death, whose suit was damaged.

The Torch turned to Namor.

"I think there's more to this than first appeared."

ALTERNATING CURRENTS

Well, here are my first original (kinda) characters: the Avengers of Earth-998! Please tell me what you think of them. Also, Kryotorak is an original character, so don't bust your head looking for him.

-Douglas

Issue #4

"TRAPPED IN ANOTHER WORLD" Part IV - Brave New World

by *Douglas Ketcham*

"WHAT THE FUCK!?" yelled Spider-Man.

"Peter, quiet. The Enforcers might be near," the Wasp whispered as the Avengers and Namor walked beneath the sewers. The Hulk was carrying the unconscious Iron Death.

"I agree with the Spider," offered Magneto.

"Hulk think Bug Man and Magnet Man right," commented the Green Goliath.

"Listen, Namor saved my ass from Iron Death," said the Human Torch.

"Gee, sorry. I'm sure it isn't a trap or something. Say, let's invite Ultron over, too," answered Spider-Man (sarcastically, of course).

"Listen, we all know Namor hates my guts, er, metal. He wouldn't prevent my death. Besides, I've known Namor longer than any of you, and he seems different".

Namor was quite at all this. Earlier today, he had been attacked by the Frightful Four, a quadruple of villains dedicated to the destruction of the Fantastic Four. They used him to get a Soviet invention, which made Reed Richard's devices go haywire and inadvertently freed Annihilus from the Negative Zone. Namor charged the beast, and was sucked in, only to emerge into a new world, where a group of warriors calling themselves the Avengers attacked him.*

* (Seen in the previous three issues - Douglas)

The Avengers all of a sudden came to a stop.

"Why are we stopping here, firebug?" the Sub-Mariner angrily asked.

"Access level 2. Code: E1054678496432," the Human Torch said, oblivious to Namor's question.

Just then, the water started to swirl. A hatch appeared at the bottom.

"Right this way" the Torch said to Namor.

The group stepped in.

"MY GOD, NAMOR!" yelled a man Namor recognized as Nick Fury, the former director of SHIELD. A Bowman Namor recognized as Hawkeye, and a man in a green scorpion suit got ready to strike the Sub-Mariner.

"Hold on, Fury, this is different than what it seems," said the Wasp.

Emperor Namor started angrily at the Enforcers Namorita, Kryotorak, and Warrior Woman.

"I am very displeased. Retreating so easily. I should break your bodies and feed your bodies to my pet," he said.

Wolverine snarled at the mention of him, and started foaming at the mouth. During Namor's conquest of the surface world, a short Canadian was proving difficult to capture. Namor himself dealt with the situation very easily. However, he saw that the man could prove useful. He gave him to former Nazi scientist Baron Heinrich Zemo, who inserted a metal skeleton into him and then broke, his mind. He dubbed him 'Wolverine' after the feisty rodent. Now, he was a guard dog for the ruler.

"We apologize, my lord," began Warrior Woman.

"But Iron Death was right. There was someone who resembled you," offered Warrior Woman to an attempt to calm the tyrant.

Namor paused. He lifted his glass of wine, and sipped.

"You are lucky. I want an investigation of this person. And when I find him.."

Namor crushed his glass in his hand.

"I will crush him"

Namor sat in the chair. He had told his story of what had happened that day.

"So, Richards was right," commented Namora.

"What? Reed Richards," said Namor, surprised.

"Yes. Richards was one a scientist. He helped on our technology. However, he concentrated on his

theory of alternate universes, where things were different. Mostly, he tried to enter the 'Negative Zone'. He hoped that that would be a stepping stone to other universes, where eventually he would find one that could help us overthrow Namor. He tried to open it, but he vanished into it."

"I guess you someone opened the portal from the outside. If we can repair it, you can return to your dimension, and come back with help," completed the Human Torch.

"Yes. However, I would like to know what my counterpart has done in this dimension to earn such hatred," Namor replied.

The Torch sighed. He then began.

"Namor was the result of a marriage between a surface man and an Atlantean. When he was 18, he slew the Emperor Thankor and took control. Within months, Atlantis was a war machine, forced to mine and make weapons. Namor then turned to the surface. I started to fight him.

"The war took our attention off Namor. But he sabotaged both sides. The war didn't end until the '50s. And then, the Atlantis attacked. The United States and Soviet Union were quickly struck, and the rest of the countries quickly fell. The entire war took a year.

"Still, we fought. I helped found the Avengers, with Captain America, Miss America, and the Whizzer. All of them died. First the Whizzer. Miss America lasted until the 1970s. Cap finally fell in the 90s.

"Others joined over the years and fell. Marvel Boy. Venus. Dr. Druid. Magar. Kliron. Water-Girl. Mammoth. Boombbox. The list goes on and on."

There was silence for a minute or two. Then the Wasp spoke up.

"I'll get Nomura to help repair Richard's device."

"I will help as well. After all, I'm sure the Sorceress Supreme can help opening a portal," said the Scarlet Witch.

"I CAN'T BELIEVE IT!?! YOU TRUST THIS SCUM!?" yelled Spider-Man.

"PETER! TO YOUR QUARTERS, NOW!" yelled the Wasp.

The angry man walked away.

"I'll go see if I can't calm my boyfriend down," she said.

"I will too," said Namora.

"Are you sure he'll listen to you?" asked the Sub-Mariner.

"When I was a child, Namor gave a royal order to kill me. My father was murdered, and my friends were tortured. I hate you even more than him."

"Why does he hate me, anyway?"

"Not you, actually. It's more himself. His father and uncle devised armor and fought as members of the Avengers. However, his father was slain by Attuma, who was slain by his uncle. Peter grew up lonely and devised his armor in form of a spider, and became a mercenary. One night, he let Namorita, an Enforcer, get away, because he wasn't paid for it. It was Attuma's daughter, and she killed his uncle. He's been with us ever since."

"ASSEMBLE THE ENFORCERS!" roared Namor. Iron Death had regained consciousness, and sent a message to Namor detailing the location of the base. It was time to wipe out the pests forever.

ALTERNATING CURRENTS

Note: all the names the Torch mentioned, except Marvel Boy and Venus, are throwaway names that only existed on Earth-998.

- Douglas

Issue #5

"TRAPPED IN ANOTHER WORLD" Part V - Crisis on Earth 992

by *Douglas Ketcham*

"Be gone denizens of the dark! Let the clean light of my enchanted amulet bathe over you! Let all the Hosts of Hoggoth send you back to the netherworld from whence you came! Be gone -- I command you!" yelled the Scarlet Witch.

To the disappointment of those in the room, nothing happened.

"Sorry. I guess it just works on demons" she apologized.

"Hey, it was worth a shot" offered the Human Torch.

The Avengers had been trying for days to find a way to return Namor to his universe. It was not just out of the good of their heart; they hoped Namor would return with others to help them overthrow Namor's counterpart, a ruthless tyrant. The scientific members of the team were trying to repair a machine built by Reed Richards to enter the Negative Zone. Meanwhile, Wanda Maximoff, the Scarlet Witch and Sorceress Supreme, was trying to find a magical way to solve the problem.

"Well, we're almost done. Still, we'll need a huge power source to make it work" commented Dr. Shesuke Nomura, a Japanese robotics expert.

"I think we might have that," said Namora, referring to their prisoner, Iron Death.

Lord Namor the First observed his Enforcers. The Abomination; Baron Blood; the Cobra; Goliath; Kryotorak; the Man-Ape; Namorita; and Warrior Woman.

"The time has come, my Enforcers. We are going to crush the resistance in North America. Thanks to Iron Death, we have learned of their location. You may kill whom you want, save for two: I demand the Human Torch, as well as someone who resembles myself".

Magneto, the Human Torch, and the Hulk were walking towards the cell the contained the armor Iron Death. His armor was the most advanced in the world, and would hopefully contain enough energy to power the machine that would open a portal to the Negative Zone.

"Entry code: K1933G1954A1955R1956" said the Torch.

The door opened, and a blast came out.

The Avengers turned to see Iron Death, its arms smoking.

The armor walked towards the cell.

"Entry code: G1964M1974S1994"

The door opened. Out came Anthony Stark.

"Ah, great".

Stark smiled. Long ago, he put cybernetic implants into his body, giving him an almost supernatural connection to the armor. He knew when the Avengers repaired his armor, hoping to use it for their own uses.

The sewer was quite, save for the footsteps. Even the rats seem to cower in the face of Namor the First and his Enforcers.

All of a sudden, they stopped.

"This is the place," said Namor. He then punched the ground and jumped in.

"Kill everyone!" he shouted.

The Abomination immediately hit the Hulk.

"HULK SMASH!" he yelled and hit the Yugoslavian. The Abomination immediately got up and charged back into the battle.

The Scarlet Witch and the Vision immediately attacked the demonic Kryotorak. She sent a blast to the dark demon, which recoiled in pain.

Warrior Woman launched an assault against Namora, whom grabbed her whip and used it against the Nazi Super-Solider.

Spider-Man was fighting Namorita, blasting her.

"I'LL KILL YOU BITCH!" he yelled.

"You'll have to catch me first-OW!" she said, as the Wasp sent a sting to her.

It was enough time for Spider-Man to get her.

Namor was about to help, when someone struck him. He turned up to see...himself.

"We fight now, imposter. IMPERIUS REX!" Lord Namor the First yelled.

Namor quickly flew out of the way, and punched his counterpart. He barely flinched.

Lord Namor grabbed his neck, and started to choke him. Namor never felt so weak at an enemy.

The Human Torch looked at the Namors. Things weren't going good for his side. Then, he got an idea.

"SPIDER-MAN! DISTRACT IRON DEATH!" he yelled.

Spider-Man immediately started firing at Iron Death.

"So, the itsy bitsy spider wants Iron Death to wash him out?" the armored Enforcer said in a taunting tone.

"VISION!" the Torch yelled.

Iron Death gasped, and collapsed. The Vision took his hand out.

"Get 'em into the lab!" the Torch ordered.

INTERLUDE

Earth-616

"Remarkable!" cried Professor Thomas Williams, deep within his tent. The high temperature in the Middle Eastern Mountains didn't disrupt his excitement. The 50-year old archeologist had uncovered a settlement dated to be established about 15,000 BC! Now, he found an ancient book that seemed to be their bible.

Still, he shivered as he looked at the illustrations. It showed babies being slaughtered, and women stabbed, and then being fed to a monstrous thing which looked like a tyrannosaurus and Satan himself.

The text with it was just as disturbing, if not more so.

*Lo! The weak were killed
And the children and women slayed
The blood formed a river from which we drank
And Molochra swallowed*

*Lo! Their flesh was devoured
And the blood and flesh were used to make the key
The Key - - which will open the gates of Hell
And release Molochra.
And he shall swallow our foes --*

That was all Williams had translated of the passage so far, and he was not in a hurry to translate the rest. Still, he had learned a lot about this culture. Apparently, they were a viscous race, slaughtering other tribes and eating them. Moreover, they used flesh and blood to make items, including the book he was now reading, a fact that caused him to vomit, and, this 'key'. He was working on what this 'key' was. According to the texts, it was a shield and weapon, used by the king of the tribe.

He then turned to see another thing he discovered. It was a rather large orange diamond. It was shown several times in the book. Apparently, it was an object of worship. Only the ruler of the tribe was allowed to touch it regularly.

Williams turned away. He touched it once, and got a sick feeling. He touched it for only seconds, and yet, he had nightmares that involved it.

"AH!" screamed a woman outside.

A man, an American, about 40 or so, came in.

Major Richard Cameron sighed. The ex-SHIELD agent, though one of the Seven, the body which controlled the Industrial Mafia, still did mercenary work, to get the blood flowing.

"Okay, tubby. I want that their book and the diamond, see, and you'll be a-okay".

Williams paused. He was no hero, and was not going to sacrifice his life to protect his research.

"Y-Ye-Yes, yes, sir. He-her-here ya go" he stumbled, handing Cameron the items.

"Good".

The man started to leave.

"Oh, and professor?"

"Yes?"

"I lied"

Williams fell, relief still in his eyes.

END OF INTERLUDE

Namor felt his strength leaving him. He could barely struggle.

Namor, can you hear me? he heard in his head.

What? He thought

This is the Scarlet Witch. Namor if you can, get Namor - the OTHER Namor - and get him into the lab

Namor struggled. He couldn't do this.

However, determination soon grew in his heart. He was Namor. The One True Sub-Mariner. THE AVENGER SON!

"IMPERIUS REX!" yelled Namor as he struck Lord Namor into the wall.

Lord Namor got up.

"YOU WILL PAY FOR THIS INSOLENT!" he yelled as he charged the Sub-Mariner.

Namor dodged, and headed toward the lab.

The two Sub-Mariners crashed into the lab.

"TURN IT ON!" yelled the Torch.

Namora flipped a switch, and just then, a portal opened. There was a burst of wind, and the Wasp became normal sized to prevent being pulled in.

Namor punched his evil counterpart towards the portal.

"HA! Fools, I'm too strong to be sucked in to this!"

"Shut Up" the Torch said, before unleashing a ray of fire, his strongest ever.

Lord Namor started to recoil, when Namor stroke him and both entered the portal.

"CLOSE IT" yelled the Torch. Spider-Man turned it off.

Both an enemy and ally were gone.

Lord Namor punched Namor with all his strength.

"The Avengers are rid of me, but you will pay for your life!" he yelled.

Namor looked around. He saw a large rock, a meteor, perhaps, falling towards him.

"Maybe" he replied.

"But so will you".

Namor used all of his strength to throw the tyrant in the path of the rock.

The collision caused a blast that sent Prince Namor miles away.

Namor silently floated in the Negative Zone. Just then, someone grabbed him.

"Need a hand, Namor?" asked Reed Richards.

Namor headed back to Atlantis. The Fantastic Four had captured Mister Hyde and Mysterio, though the other half of the Frightful Four escaped. Hate was in his heart. He had wanted Llyra, the treacherous woman who had caused him so much pain.

The Wizard struggled. It was no use, though. The chains were made of iron, in fact. The damp roof of the warehouse shed small drips on him.

"Hope you're comfortable, Wizard. Well, not really" began Llyra.

"Don't worry. We'll be gone soon. I have a nice place in South America. You see, I need someone with half a brain for a lackey, and Dr. Doom and the Mad Thinker aren't easy to kidnap. My plan for Namor, you see, has just reached a big point. I have to act now. And if you're cooperative, you'll get some part of the bargain..."

"Namor, you should relax for the next few months. Because after that, the rest of your life is going to be hell".

NEXT ISSUE: Atlantis' favorite holiday, the Festival of Neptune, is nearing, but six deep-sea villains have other plans!

Issue #6

"THE FESTIVAL "

by *Douglas Ketcham*

"ALL HAIL KING NAMOR THE FIRST" yelled an Atlantean with a trumpet.

The Atlanteans cheered for the return of their king. After all, he was both their ruler and hero. Whether it was the barbarian Attuma, the usurper Krang, the Lemurian Llyra, or threats from the surface world such as Tiger Shark or Destiny, Namor would defend them.

Namor raised his hand, and the crowd fell quiet.

"People of Atlantis, I have returned. I fell into a trap of Llyra of Lemuria. However, I have defeated her.

"But let's not dwell on things of the past. In a few minutes, the Festival of Neptune, a celebration and tribute to our god Neptune, will begin."

The crowd once again cheered.

The rat could not be heard by most of the people walking along the docks of Sin-Cong. Many would not have cared. The small island country had been doing poorly ever since the communists took over. Since the Avengers other threw the communist tyrants* things have been somewhat better, but the nation was still one of the poorest in the world. Which made it a haven for criminals.

* (WAY WAY back in Marvel's Avengers Volume #1 #17 - Douglas)

The rat entered warehouse #7. It saw two humans, but nothing to worry about. It didn't even care, as it spied some crumbs, too small for any human, but a nice meal for a rat. The rat never saw the hand that snatched it up, or the teeth that bit its head off.

Tiger Shark foamed at the mouth as he tore into the flesh. The genetic code of his namesake was in him, and he was just as much a predator.

"Ah, Mister Arliss, I see you're here," said a man there.

Tiger Shark took his eye off his catch and looked at the man.

"Allow me to introduce myself. I'm Harold Riggs. I represent the Brand Corporation."

Tiger Shark grunted. He could see that Riggs was terrified of him, and was keeping his hand close to his gun. Tiger Shark smiled. Riggs sweated.

"What's the matter, man? Does the shark scare the little salmon?" he taunted as he came closer.

Riggs immediately got his gun out and shot.

Tiger Shark ignored the shots and got ready to kill. However, he immediately found himself standing still.

A woman emerged from the darkness. And it was apparent she was not human.

"Riggs, one, you guns will not him. Two, you need not have worried. After all, Father Set will protect us," she calmly said.

Tiger Shark tried to struggle, but he couldn't move not even a small shake. He then saw an unusual headpiece on the woman's head.

It was green, and had three snakes on the sides. One snake was in the front. The small part of his mind that was human recognized it.

The Serpent Crown.

Namor walked through the Atlantean hallway. He was feeling lonely. His recently resurrected wife Marrina had quickly rejoined the Canadian Alpha Flight. He could not complain. After all, he was a member of the Defenders, and was a member of the Invaders, the All-Winners Squad, and the Avengers at times in his life. Still, he felt hollow.

"NAMOR!" yelled a female voice.

The Sub-Mariner turned to see a familiar figure.

"Namorita! I was hoping you would come. I thought, though, that you would devote more time to your new team," Namor replied to his cousin.

"Force Works? Oh, they can be without me for a week."

"Well, I'm glad. I have been lonely, and Maaken could use a female while his mother is away."

"Namor, do you know how outdated that attitude is on the surface?"

"Namorita, I have little care for what the surface thinks, as long as they aren't harming us."

Antarctica. A land of ice and death.

Riggs, safe and warm in the Seahawk, a submarine owned by Roxxon Oil, saw the remains of the Endurance, a ship that came at the turn of the century. He turned to see what remained of a city. Old Atlantis.

Nagala opened her eyes from a trance.

"Over there," she coldly stated, while pointing a figure to an old building.

A smaller robotic sub came out of the Seahawk. It spun to the old building, then stopped.

"Release the sleeping chemical," Riggs ordered.

"After what he's been through, it probably won't be necessary, but we shouldn't take chances."

The robot released a liquid, which went into the building. Soon, the liquid disappeared.

"Excellent. Now, let's break him out."

The robot started to shift. A small missile appeared.

10...9...8...7...6...5...4...3...2...1...0

The missile hit the building. It was small, so the damage was minimal, only a broken wall. However, it was the purpose. The robot spun into the room. Two missiles were launched.

"Excellent. The chains are no more. Get him."

The robot grabbed the figure and returned to the Seahawk.

Minutes later, Riggs and Nagala entered the room where their 'guest' was.

"Welcome, Sea Leopard."

Namor silently ate his dinner. Not that he was alone. Namorita was there, as well as Lord Vashti, the great vizier of Atlantis, and his son, Maaken. Still, he longed for his wife.

"Namor."

Namor turned, and smiled.

"MARRINA!"

"I do not see why we can't use the Seahawk," commented Riggs.

He, Nagala, and the rest of their collected warriors, U-Man, Orka, Tiger Shark, and Sea Leopard, were on the ship of the modern-day pirate, Captain Barracuda.

The pirate had changed since he attacked New York City with hordes of undersea monsters, only to be stopped by Namor and the Fantastic Four.*

* (Fantastic Four #219 - Douglas)

After that, he used his undersea fortune to buy a highly advanced submarine from the Industrial Mafia, and became a smuggler, smuggling drugs, weapons, and sometimes-even criminals oversea.

"Barracuda is experienced. He will be able to help our cause more," Nagala explained.

Riggs was quiet.

"Tell me, Nagala, how do you get the Serpent Crown. I was under the impression that it was destroyed at Project: Pegasus a couple of years ago?"*

* (Marvel Team-Up Annual #5 - Douglas)

"Yes. However, Llyra of Lemuria and Lord Ghaur of the Deviants created another one. It was thought to be lost, but I found it. I used magic to make it smaller, but it had the same amount of power..."

* (Nagala is referring to the events of Atlantis Attacks - Douglas)

Namor and Marrina were in the chamber of their son, Maaken.

"He's beautiful, Namor."

"Yes, a fine heir."

There was silence for a moment. Then, Namor spoke up.

"Marrina, I want to talk to you."

"About what?"

"About Alpha Flight."

"Namor, they're my second family. I can't abandon them. Besides, aren't you a member of the Defenders."

"Yes. However, we only assemble to fight great threats from beyond."

"Namor, I'm not going to quit."

"Still, I would like you to spend more time with us."

Marrina sighed.

"We'll should talk about this later."

"Very well. Right now, the festival is about to begin."

The Atleanteans were cheering as their king came out.

Just then, it stopped. Out of nowhere, a submarine appeared, and launched several torpedoes. They hit buildings, and the crowd went for cover. Namor growled. They would pay for this.

"IMPERIUS REX!"

Issue #7

"ATLANTIS ATTACKED"

by *Douglas Ketcham*

"DIE NAMOR!" yelled Tiger Shark, as the human-shark charged the Sub-Mariner.

Namor, never one to back down from a challenge, headed straight for the monstrous human who was created with the Avenging Son's own DNA.

Tiger Shark laughed like a maniac, and scratched the king of Atlantis with claws that were almost as sharp as Wolverine's. Blood spurted out of the wounds. Namor stopped for a moment as the pain got to him. Tiger Shark swallowed some of the blood, as his animal nature overtook him. He was soon sent back to reality, as Namor delivered a punch to him.

Tiger Shark immediately charged his hated enemy again, but suddenly, something stopped him. He yelled and roared like a caged animal, but he couldn't move.

"Sorry, Tiger Shark. However, the honor of killing Namor will be MINE!" uttered a female voice.

Tiger Shark glared at her. Damn Crown!

Namor looked up to see someone he had never met before, but still had an aura of familiarity.

"Let me go, bitch! I'm going to kill him, me, me!" cried Tiger Shark, whom was foaming at the mouth.

"Don't fret. There are plenty of other things to kill here. Just look below."

The human shark looked below. His licked his lips. Tons of Atlanteans panicking, running around, just right for the picking.

He growled at Nagala. He wanted Namor. But he knew he couldn't beat her. He tried several times before, and though Tiger Shark's mind was more animal than man was, even an animal knows when something is futile. Besides, it had been a while since he went on a killing spree. Almost a week, in fact.

"Very well. But when you fail, he's mine!" yelled Tiger Shark as he swam below.

He spied a small child. A delicious appetizer, he thought. However, a swift kick in the back stopped

him. Blood came out of his mouth. He turned to see a woman.

"Who are you lady? You ain't an Atlantean, so why do you care if I just have a little snack?"

Marrina responded with another kick.

"Maybe not, but I am their queen, and I will not let you devour them, or any innocent."

Above them, Namor started at his new opponent.

"Who are you? For someone who has never met me before, you are very eager to kill me."

The woman laughed.

"No. However, it's in my blood. I am Nagala. I am sure you remember my father: Naga, king of Lemuria!"

"So, Naga had a child."

"Yes. Now, with the Serpent Crown, I will avenge my father!"

Two blasts of energy came out of Nagala's hands. Namor managed to dodge them and swam up to her, punching her in the face.

Below, Orka stared at the palace. It was grand, made of the finest metal found under the sea. Even the dim-witted Orka recognized how spectacular it was.

He raised his hands and started to punch it. The building started to crumble.

Then, he saw something else. Something coming at him.

Fast.

Namorita punched him the face. Orka fell, though he got up almost as fast.

"Well, a girl-Namor. I'll kill you!"

The undersea juggernaut swung his arms and attempted to punch Namorita in the face, breaking most of her bones.

However, the teenaged Atlantean used her agility to dodge the hulking leviathan.

Meanwhile, the Atlantean Andromeda was fighting the Sea Leopard.

"I'm surprised you're still alive, Leopard. My father is not known for humanity to his prisoners" she

taunted.

The blue being, more ferocious than even the beast from which he got his name from, angrily leapt at what he hoped to make his prey.

U-Man started at the tracking device.

"Getting closer" he muttered to himself.

He looked above at the battle.

"Those idiots better keep Namor busy. The bosses are going to be very pissed if I don't get this."

Namor swung at the evil Lemurian. He delivered his attack to her stomach, and she was set aback.

"You can not defeat me, Namor. Father Set protects me!" she yelled as she crackled with energy.

"Perhaps. But Father Neptune gives me my power" Namor cried as he charged her.

She growled, as Namor's vision became blurry.

She's using the Crown to blind me, he realized.

U-Man growled.

"Damn machine! I could have whipped up something better than this!"

He was about to smash it into the wall, when he noticed something.

"Wait a minute! The thing's working!"

He looked around, and saw a statue of Neptune in the middle of the city.

"Bingo."

Namor cried out as Nagala struck him.

"Soon I will have avenged my father, half-breed!" she called out.

"Never, witch!" he yelled out, though he was unsure as to where to strike.

He had a plan. Somewhat.

The key to Nagala's power was the crown, and he might be able to pull it off. However, he needed to distract her.

He raised her hand.

"I surrender."

"Barracuda" U-Man called on his communication device.

"Ar?"

"I found the gem. It's inside this statue. But for some reason, I can't break it. Launch one or two of your most powerful torpedoes at it."

"Ar."

"The mighty Sub-Mariner, surrendering?" Nagala asked.

"Yes, I surrender to you, Set."

Nagala finches.

"Set? It was I, Nagala, who brought you to your knees!"

"Only as a vassal for Set. Without the Serpent Crown, you are not match for me."

Namor could tell he had struck a cord.

"Not that you should feel shame in it. After all, your father Naga was al-"

"NO! Neither my father nor I were puppets! And I shall prove it to you by slaying you myself!"

Like a rabid dog, Nagala charged her foe. Namor, however, dodged her and grabbed her head. She was no longer using the Crown to help her in the battle. He then grabbed the Crown.

Immediately, a great shock surged through the Sub-Mariner. Nagla may have stopped using the

Crown, but Set was not about to lose a host without a fight.

"ARGH!"

The Avenging Son yelled at the pain. But still, he did not let go.

Nagala screamed like a madwoman. She tried to claw Namor away, to no effect.

Then, Namor, with all his might, pulled the Crown off!

Nagala, exhausted from the experience, fell.

Namor looked around. The Atlantean army had arrived, and the other attackers were defeated. However, Namor was still bothered. Was the plan simply this? Did someone simply recruit several of his foes and thought that combined they would kill him? Somehow, Namor knew there was more to this. Suddenly, he heard a noise. The submarine! He would ponder this mystery later. Now he had to stop the insidious surface-made machine.

Just then, two torpedoes came roaring out of it.

They hit a statue of Neptune, one thought to be thousands of years old, surviving the various destruction of Atlantis. However, it was destroyed within seconds.

He then saw something remerge from the dust. U-MAN! The Atlantean scientist who betrayed Atlantis to the Nazis in the 1940s!

Namor charged at him.

"Here's something for ya, Namor!" yelled U-Man as he removed a gem from his palm. A charge of energy from the blue jewel came out and stunted Namor. He immediately fell.

"Always wanted to do that. No, just one more thing.."

All of a sudden, Sea Leopard was levitated to the Seahawk.

"Well, I'll be on my way."

Secretly, he was glad. The gem was giving him a bad vibe.

U-Man entered the dark room, with Sea Leopard, in a trance, not far behind. It was rocky and primitive, an ancient ruin.

"U-Man, excellent." The man stepped up, revealing himself.

Tyrannus, former emperor of Rome and currently ruler of a section of Subterrainia.

"Though Cameron got the first gem here faster." *

* (Issue #5)

"Well, he didn't have a sea-prince with the strength of the Hulk to deal with."

"Bah. No matter. The important thing is that we have"

He pointed at two men of Chinese descent.

"Put Mr. Leopard in the device. And get the book."

"I do not approve of you ordering my men," another man said.

The Yellow Claw emerged from the shadows. He was approached by Tyrannus to help him, to use the knowledge of the man who was possibly centuries old.

"I provided this group with the information, and assembled it as well" the eternally young emperor yelled.

"My technology was essential to this operation."

"Yeah, well I paying for this" said another man.

Hugh Jones, CEO of Roxxon Oil. Just as Tyrannus needed technology, he needed the cash to pay for it.

"Silence, we about to begin?" Tyrannus yelled.

The four men walked near the device. It was in the shape of a fountain, with a demon figure on the top. It had two cops, with a diamond in one. It had several symbols and characters on it. The Claw had it built from an ancient fountain that was in this structure centuries ago.

Tyrannus placed a scale on it.

U-Man then put the diamond in the device, next to the other one.

"Activate it!" Tyrannus yelled.

Soon the scale started to transform and grow. In only seconds it was the size of a man. It took only a few more seconds for it to reach 50 meters.

The object was covered in green scales, and had a long neck. Two huge wings developed, along with

claws, arms and legs.

It then was clear what the object was. It was the form of a dragon.

The four men smiled. They were successful.

FIN FANG FOOM WAS REBORN!

Issue #8

"THE DOCTOR IS IN"

by *Douglas Ketcham*

Doctor Steven Strange quietly put his book away. Things have been calm for the last couple of months, but after a trip to Hell, the Sorcerer Supreme hoped it would never end.

Just then, he heard the door open.

"Who is there?" the master of the mystic arts demanded.

Two figures entered. One was a thin, though definitely strong looking, man wearing a body suit that looked like it was equipped to travel in the sea. He was holding a hideous woman, with reptile scales and reminding Strange of the Medusa from Greek mythology.

"Strange," stated Namor as he slammed Nagala's head onto a table.

"I have need of your services."

The moon was bright, and it was a cool night, one nice for sleeping. However, Mendiko Martínez Villanueva could not sleep. All his animals were making noises for some reason.

"¡Cierre para arriba, damnit!" he yelled.

Then, it got darker.

He heard a growl. He had lived in Santa Marco all his life, and never before had he heard an animal like that.

"¿Qué el infierno?" he muttered.

He then saw something coming. He could barely make it out. It was green, and scaly.

The creature flew down, and Villanueva immediately recognized it.

"¡Mi dios! ¡Un dragón!"

Fin Fang Foom roared as he caught a cow in his claws.

"He's not listening!" yelled Hugh Jones.

"Do not worry," the Yellow Claw answered calmly. Thanks to my genius, and Sea Leopard's ability to control animals, he is in our thrall. He is only eating, which I see no problem with. He will get the jewel soon."

"Who is this, Namor?" asked the Sorcerer Supreme.

Namor started at him.

"She calls herself Nagala. She is the daughter of Naga. Just hours ago, she lead a group of beings in an attempt to attack Atlantis. However, I am sure there is more to the plot."

"But Namor," began Strange.

"Why bring her to me? Surely Reed Richards has some sort of device to get information out of her."

"Yes. However, she was wearing the Serpent Crown. I know the terrible extent of it. Thus, I believed it would be better for a sorcerer to open her mind. After all, Set might still be there."

"I don't believe Set is any concern. I saw with my own eyes Thor, powered by Demogorge, tear his seven heads, and toss them into seven different dimensions. It will take several millennia until he reunites,"* Strange explained.

* (Thor Annual #14)

"Perhaps. However, I do not want to take chances."

Strange sat down.

"Very well. I will search her mind."

¡Listo! ¡Puntería!" yelled the general.

Fin Fang Foom growled at the approaching tanks.

"¡Fuego!"

About a hundred tanks started firing at the dragon. Foom roared at them.

"Foolish insects! You dare attack me, Fin Fang Foom!?"

"¡Él sabe hablar!" yelled one of the soldiers.

Fin Fang Foom unleashed a blast of flame at the tanks. They immediately melted.

"¡Retratamiento!" cried out the commander.

"I am afraid this will take more time than expected," Doctor Strange explained to the Sub-Mariner.

"What do you mean?" asked the king of Atlantis, his voice containing irruption.

"My spells are not having any effect on her."

Namor grunted.

"Then how do we get information from her."

"Well, there is one thing. I can enter her mind."

Namor looked puzzled.

"What do you mean, Strange? I am in no mood for riddles."

"No riddle, Namor. I will perform a spell that will let me enter the consciousness of Nagala. I will then find what she knows."

"Very well, Strange. But hurry. Atlantis could be in grave danger."

"I will. However, Namor, I will need you to stay here. I will be vulnerable to anyone who attacks my physical self."

"Very well, Stephen."

Doctor Strange sat down. He closed his eyes.

"In the name of the Eternal Vishanti, let my consciousness leave my body and let it enter another."

Soon, Strange seemed silent.

"That dragon better get the gem soon!" yelled Tyrannus.

"Do not worry. The army can not penetrate him," replied the Yellow Claw.

"Still, sooner or later, some superhero team will arrive."

"Would you two shut up!? I'm getting a message from Nagala."

Jones closed his eyes. He had worn the Serpent Crown, and thus could communicate telepathically with those who had also worn it.

Soon, his eyes opened.

"Gentlemen. We have an excellent opportunity to deal with our main threat."

"The Sorcerer Supreme?"

"None other. And I have just the guys to deal with him."

Doctor Strange looked around the serial landscape. He started to look around, for clues to the plans of Nagala.

Just then, he heard someone. He turned, to see a man wearing ancient Roman armor. It was Tyrannus.

"Now, Nagala, this plan will unleash your god upon the world."

It was a memory. Strange smiled. He would listen to what he said, and then leave.

Fin Fang Foom landed near the temple. The item he came for was in there.

Raising his arms, he started to claw at the structure. Tons of debris fell from the temple, estimated to be thousands of years old. Soon, the dragon stopped. And he picked the diamond up.

Fin Fang Foom fled to the sky.

"Would you like some tea, Namor?"

"Thank you, Wong."

He started to sip, when he heard footsteps.

"Wong, is Stephen expecting someone?"

"No."

"Then be prepared."

Just then, a huge figure crashed in. He was wearing a green suit that seemed like a snake. Seven other beings entered.

"Hello," said one of them.

"I am the King Cobra, and they are Anaconda, Puff-Adder, Basilisk, Cottonmouth, Bushmaster, Rattler, and Fer-De-Lance. We are the Serpent Society, and we are here for a Doctor Strange."

"You will have to pass my carcass first," Namor yelled.

"As well as mine," added Wong.

However, Anaconda jumped over them, and stretching her arms, strikes the doctor down!

Issue #9

"SERPENTS"

by *Douglas Ketcham*

Bushmaster wrapped his snake tail around Namor's neck.

"You are a fool, surface dweller, if you think you can straggle a prince of the brood!"

Bushmaster fell off as Namor flexed his body out.

He turned to Wong.

"Wong! Help Strange! I will deal with these snakes!"

"Puff Adder! Anaconda!" King Cobra yelled to the strongest members of the Serpent Society.

"Deal with the Sub-Mariner! The rest of you, finish killing off the sorcerer!"

Strange got up. Someone must have distributed his body. That was bad. If he were unconscious, he would have fewer defenses against whatever inhabited Nagala's mind.

He then heard a hiss.

"Hello, Strange" said Nagala.

"I'm on my way," said Forge.

"Director Forge" said a SHIELD agent, running in.

Forge sighed.

"What is it? I'm about to have an important meeting that could have important ramifications on the Doom crisis."

"I know, sir, but Fin Fang Foom has reappeared over Darwin, Australia. The RAAF* have engaged him, but are not meeting success."

* (The Royal Australian Air Force)

Forge sighed. The meeting was important, and could end Doom's rule of Latevia. However, Foom was on a destruction spree.

"Have you contacted the Avengers West Coast?" the SHIELD director asked. The recently reestablished team was included Iron Man, who fought the dragon the last two times he appeared.

"I did, sir, but they are involved with the Sons of the Serpent."

"Damn it."

Forge thought for a moment.

"Agent, who was in charge of the, um, 'Godzilla Squad'* a couple of years ago?"

* (The Godzilla Squad was the SHIELD taskforce that was in charge of dealing with the Monster King during his 1970s series)

"Agent Dugan, sir."

"Put him in command of the crisis until I am back."

"But sir-"

"But nothing. If he can handle one giant lizard, he can handle another."

Uluru, also known as Ayers Rock and the great-blood red rock, was a calm area for most of the day. Only a few of the Aboriginal people, to whom it was sacred, visited. However, that was about to change.

Fin Fang Foom landed on the rock, and started to claw into it. Tons of chunks fell to the ground.

Soon, Foom found what he was looking for, and took to the air.

"Die, Strange!" Nagala cried out as she threw bolts of energy from her hands.

"Let the crimson bands of Cyttorak surge forth, Seeking the one who is near"

A red ball covered Doctor Strange, protecting him from the blast.

"You can not stay their forever, Strange. Your powers will soon be too weak to resist me."

She's right, Strange thought. I must think of something soon if I am to survive.

"All right. Adder, finish fish-man here off", yelled Anaconda as Namor struggled in her grip.

Puff Adder started to punch the Avenging Son in the face. Namor grunted. Normally, he could easily break from the snake-woman's grip, but he was becoming dehydrated.

Wong saw the Sub-Mariner's predicament. However, he was wielding a sword against Fer-De-Lance and Rattler. Still, he knew that Namor had the best chance of driving their foes off. He tried to remember a spell he knew of.

Namor was getting weaker, when the ground started to rumble. A burst of water came out and hit Namor. After a couple of seconds, it stopped. Namor got up. He looked around. Both Anaconda and Puff Adder were down.

However, a blast hit Namor.

"Okay, fishy, get ready to fight the Basilisk!"

Nagala threw a blast at the Sorcerer Supreme. Strange threw one of his one, which cancelled the other out.

"You can not win, Strange. Soon, your body will be dead, and your mind will be crushed like an insect."

The Sahara Desert.

There was a great stampede, as Fin Fang Foom flew above. He glared down. Searching for the area his captors wanted him to find.

He neared the Atlas Mountains. His destination was near. He landed on them, and like before, started to dig.

It was a tomb, though not just any tomb. It was the tomb of the legendary king of Israel from 970-928 BC. During his reign, he had collected many items, and they were placed in the tomb. It was one of these the dragon wanted.

During his life, the Yellow Claw had found an ancient book written in 893 BC. It told of how Solomon met

a terrified woman, who claimed to be fleeing from soldiers of a Thoth-Mainyu, who wanted an emerald she claimed to be "a piece of Satan." She died soon after, and Solomon had it hidden. After King Solomon died, the emerald was placed in his tomb.

Fin Fang Foom clawed through the tomb, before finding the emerald. He then took off to the sky, heading for the next location.

Namor dodged the eye blast from the Basilisk.

He was once merely Alex Miller, a member of the Rat Pack. However, one night, while raiding a cemetery, he stumbled into the coffin of one Basil Elks, who was once a villain called the Basilisk, before being gunned down by the Scourge.

He found an emerald, the Alpha Stone he later learned, in it, and took it with him. He later learned about the original Basilisk, and decided to get the power for himself. With a simple swing of a hammer, he became a superhuman.

"You can't beat me, fish-man! My predecessor was strong enough to handle both Spider-Man and the original Captain Marvel!"

Namor flew up and delivered a punch to the green-skinned man.

"If what the Fantastic Four told me was true, he was also gunned down by a glorified gun man?" the Sub-Mariner replied.

The Basilisk growled.

"Perhaps, but I won't be. My body is enforced with titanium. No gun is going to get me."

His eyes started to glow. Two beams of ice came from them and started to encase the Sub-Mariner in ice!

Doctor Strange swung his arms as he lashed out with energy at the Lemurian Nagala.

He thought about what to do. He quickly decided to gamble it, and to use all his power.

His hands crackled with energy, and he blasted Nagala.

"Move in, my serpents! It's time to collect our bounty!" King Cobra yelled. The Basilisk was holding Namor at bay, leaving the rest of them free to kill Wong and Doctor Strange.

Just then, though, Strange awoke. He looked at the Serpent Society, and raised his hands. They vanished in seconds. Strange then collapsed.

Namor broke free of the ice, and rushed over to Strange. "Strange, did you learn the purpose?" the Avenging Son asked.

Strange was breathing heavily.

"Follow...Fi.... Fin Fang.... Foom."

He then lost consciousness.

Wong looked with concern.

"He must be exhausted from he battle he had."

Namor sighed.

"Have him come to me when he comes through. In the meantime, I will follow his advice, and find the dragon."

Fin Fang Foom flew over Egypt. He was nearing his next destination, when something stung him.

The dragon growled and looked at what attacked him. He was surprised. Thousands of jets, from SHIELD, the United States, and Egypt, lead by the Behemoth, a SHIELD helicarrier built to contain Godzilla.

Foom roared and charged.

Issue #10

"Return of the Priscatoid"

by Douglas Ketcham

Fin Fang Foom charged the SHIELD forces. Immediately, the American and Egyptian jets fired at him. However, the dragon swatted at them, tearing through them as if they were dying flies.

Several C-49 jets then charged the dragon, unleashing napalm on the beast. Foom cried out! It felt as if his face was on fire! He started to scratch his face. Several SHIELD jets started firing at him, forcing him to land.

Several helicopters then arrived, carrying with them several large nets. They dropped them on the dragon, which to his surprise electrocuted him!

Mondo Island.

Karl Von Horstbaden walked into the lab quickly.

"Hast, täuschen Sie! Der Greifer hat das Geschöpf ist bereit sofort bestellt!" the German yelled.

One man walked to him.

"Herr Horstbaden, ist es bereit."

Horstbaden turned to the huge tank, and looked below at the monstrosity inside. The Priscatoid.

Months ago, the Yellow Claw had detected large amounts of radioactivity. He sent a small robotic drone there to investigate. The Claw had hoped to find a ship loaded with plutonium or uranium.

Instead, he found a battle between two leviathans. The radiation belonged to Godzilla, who was in conflict with the fish amalgam he would soon learn was the Priscatoid.

Soon after, Godzilla seemingly killed the Priscatoid. However, the Claw had the remains transferred to his base on Mondo Island. There, he found it was still alive, though barley. He immediately had it hooked up to life support machines, and reattached the appendages. He had also given it new teeth made out of titanium, though this was not an improvement, as its former teeth were

secondary Adamantium. The Claw decided he had better uses for it.

"Nimmt es den Vor-Sub-Mariner in Angriff?"

"Ja. Es ist die vorhergehende Mission, zum von von Godzilla zu töten wurde vergessen."

"Dann, was Sie wartend? sind! Geben Sie ihn frei!"

The man pushed a button. At the bottom of the tank, an opening appeared. The monster went into it.

Von Horstbaden smiled.

"Nun da Seteufel zahlt für, was er zum Reich tat."

Namor swam through the sea. Wong placed a spell on Nagala that would keep her dry, but Doctor Strange was too weak to elaborate on what role Fin Fang Foom played in this plot.

However, he already had a feeling that the attack on Atlantis was only a small step of this plan.

Tyrannus watched the battle in Egypt. His eyes gleamed.

He grabbed one of the emeralds and started chanting.

Fin Fang Foom growled. He felt more powerful, and ripped through the nets, barley noticing the shocks. The jets swooped down and starting dropping napalm on him. The dragon merely swatted them.

Fin Fang Foom flew up, blasting jets with flame. None of the weapons were working on the mighty dragon.

Soon, the forces left. Foom roared in triumph, and then headed for his destination.

Namor felt something was following him. It was below him. He stopped, and looked around. Then, something grabbed him. To Namor's amazement, he was being dragged down!

Namor looked at the monstrosity. The Priscatoid had found its prey.

Namor had seen monsters before. Indeed, Atlantis had deep-sea creatures they controlled, such as Giganto

or the Megasaur. However, this monster was not recognizable to him.

The Sub-Mariner decided to wonder about his foe's origin later, and managed to break free of the tentacle's grip.

The Priscatoid growled, and immediately tried to catch the Avenging Son. However, his foe managed to avoid him. He was created to defeat the large and lumbering Godzilla, not the small and agile Namor.

Still, eventually one of the tentacles knocked Namor down.

Lukas Gruler silently read his book in his study. The young man was unconcerned by the problems of the world.

He then heard something. The German looked out the window. He saw something flying towards him.

He recognized it as it came closer. He knew what it was after.

His grandfather was an archeologist sponsored by the Nazis. He found several things, including an emerald that drove him insane. He had heard how Foom was attacking areas that contained ancient items, and his castle must be next.

As he saw the door, the building rumbled, and he fell to the floor. A huge green arm shattered the wall, and the last thing Gruler saw was several chunks of the wall falling onto his face.

Namor realized he was not getting anywhere in this battle. The Priscatoid was clumsy, but the Avenging Son could not harm him, nor escape him. He had an idea, but it was risky.

Namor decided to risk it. He swam up to the monster's face. As the Priscatoid opened his mouth, Namor entered it!

Namor fell into the esophagus, but flew out before he got stuck. He flew up and used his sharp "wings" to cut his way through. Tons of blood flew through, but the Sub-Mariner kept going through.

Eventually, he came to what he was looking for. The brain! He started chopping it. He felt guilty for causing what had to be a very painful death, but it had to be done.

Eventually, he stopped, and came out. The Priscatoid was drifting down to the bottom of the sea.

Namor immediately started for Atlantis again.

Tyrannus entered a dark dungy room. The Yellow Claw and Hugh Jones were away at the moment, and he had something to do while they were gone.

'Tra kir gtuif makrs hfij hak' he chanted. If anyone had been watching, nothing would seemed to have happened. However, in Tyrannus' head, something did.

"MAiNyu! hoW MUCH loNGER MUst i wAIT?"

"My lord, I am close. Already five emeralds have been collected."

"bAh! I HAVE been CloSEr to ReIEAse beFORE!"

"Still, my lord, we are close. Soon the world will tremble at the feet of Moloch."

Issue #11

"War Foes"

by *Douglas Ketcham*

Namor entered the Royal Atlantean Palace. He was shocked to find all the guards unconscious, some bleeding very badly. A couple of them were surly dead.

He saw a figure burst through the wall.

"ANDROMEDA!" he yelled when he saw the limp figure.

"M-My ki-king," she whispered.

"Who did this to you, to all of you?!" the Prince of the Brood asked frantically.

Before she could answer, a large chunk of debris struck Namor from behind.

"That would be me, Namor."

The Sub-Mariner started up at his foe.

"MERANNO THE U-MAN!"

"Corporal, what are the whereabouts of Foom?" Colonel Timothy 'Dum-Dum' Dugan asked.

"Well, after attacking a castle in Germany, he headed up to the North Pole. He then appeared in China and-

"Damn it, I want to know where the blasted dragon is, not his life story!"

"Um, yes Colonel. He's in the Pacific Ocean, and is heading towards California."

"Is the Behemoth ready yet?"

"Yes Colonel"

"Well, then why are we still here?"

U-Man delivered a swift kick to Namor's face. "Come on, Namor," he said, "I know you can give me a better fight than those other guys." He then punched Namor in the jaw, and prepared to do it again. Yet when he thrust his fist forward, he found his hand held tightly in Namor's iron grip.

"I will not disappoint you, then, fiend!"

He then struck the former Nazi in the middle of his face, sending Meranno back.

U-Man, however, immediately got up, and swung at the Avenging Son.

The Sub-Mariner fell back. He then got up, only to see a pillar held up by U-Man, which then struck him!

Fin Fang Foom flew over the desert, heading near his destination. His mission was almost done. And yet, Foom feared its conclusion.

He then fell from the sky. Something had struck him! The dragon looked up, to see nothing. However, Fin Fang Foom knew he had been attacked, and flew up to find his attacker.

The dragon then saw his opponent. It was huge, flying, metal fortress. It was the Behemoth. It was designed years by Doctor Yuriko Takiguchi to contain Godzilla. Since then, it had been equipped with SHIELD's strongest weapons, to be used in case Godzilla or any giant monster threatened mankind.

Inside, Dum-Dum Dugan stood at the hall, the pilot Hugh Howards besides him. It gave Dugan a sense of nostalgia to be back within its halls. SHIELD was a different place now; Gabe had been fired, and Nick was working for HYDRA.

Still, he couldn't dwell on that know.

"Fire the Full-Metal Missiles!"

At that moment, five missiles with adamantium casting flew at sub-sonic speed from out of the Behemoth and struck the dragon. The ancient cried out in pain.

But the dragon did not dwell on his injuries, and quickly retaliated with a burst of flame.

However, The Behemoth, belying its huge bulk, nimbly lowered itself out of the way of Foom's attack, at the same time launching several more missiles The dragon seemed helpless as they broke his skin, causing blood to spurt out.

Tyrannus watched these events. He raised his hands, and started to mutter something.

"Ka krhi mtron trikocn"

Dugan smiled. Foom would be dead soon, and the Behemoth was not even damaged.

"Dugan, you better take a look a this."

"What is it?"

"He's healing!"

The SHIELD agent looked outside. The wounds were disappearing.

"Fire another round!" the agent ordered.

"The controls aren't working! They're frozen!"

Fin Fang Foom flew up. He wanted to attack the Behemoth, but his masters refused to allow him to do so. For when the ship would be able to fight again, it would be far too late.

Namor slowly opened his eyes.

"I see you're awake. Just in time, too. I'm about to dissect a very unique creature."

Namor then heard a cry. One of a child.

"MAAKEN!"

U-Man had strapped the 'son' of Namor to a table.

The Avenging Son struggled to break free of his chains and to save his son. However, try as he might, they refused to break.

"Don't bother, Namor, you'll only strain yourself. Those chains are adamantium, designed to chain guys like the Hulk or Juggernaut."

He grabbed a knife.

"YOU MONSTER!"

"Scientists have always been called such. Especially in Atlantis. Kriter, Jamtra, Kyril, Vyrra. All of them were called monsters, and still are. That's why I joined the Nazis, so I could have unlimited knowledge. But then, they lost the war.

"I was forced to become a mercenary. And recently, a party to collect a certain gem in Atlantis hired me. And since you've begun to muck up their plans, I was hired to dispose of you.

"Now, I could just kill you, but I'm afraid I'm a traditionalist in torturing your enemy. Plus, I'm very interested in your son. An alien that absorbed your DNA. I can hardly wait to cut him open.

"Of course, if he doesn't satisfy my curiosity, there's always your wife..."

With that, Namor's anger was renewed. He struggled, not caring what his chains were made of.

U-Man was amused by this sight, and started to laugh.

"IMPERIUS REX!"

With that, U-Man was punched with the force of a typhoon.

He looked up to see Namor, still with his chains on and behind him, a huge hole in the wall.

Anthony Matheson started out of his window of Los Vegas. He smiled as he saw the crowds enter his casino, Asgard.

He looked at the clock.

"Oh, that time already?"

He got out a small knife, and walked over to a picture of a snake. He removed it, revealing a vault. He typed in a code, and took out an emerald. He then started to slice his finger, like he had done once a month for almost all his life. However, it was a small price to pay for success.

It had been in his family for years, since the 1840s in fact. His great-great grandfather was a settler who found it in an abandoned Indian settlement. When a little blood was spread on it, it would ensure success.

Just then a warning signal came on.

"ATTENTION! ATTENTION! FIN FANG FOOM IS HEADING FOR LAS VEGAS! EVACUATE IMMEDIATELY!"

Just a few seconds later, just as predicted the green dragon appeared over the skies. And he was heading

towards Asgard.

Matheson grabbed the gem and rushed out the door. Before he could escape, however, the room started to collapse. A huge green hand came in, reaching greedily for him.

The gem! Matheson realized. He thought about what to do, and then decided to give it up. For now.

Foom grabbed the gem, and flew up. There was only one more emerald left.

U-Man dodged a large punch from Namor. However, the chunk of Atlantean marble from the wall slammed into his face.

"I'll kill you yet, Namor!."

Meranno propelled himself straight into the Sub-Mariner, only to have the Avenging Son punch the Nazi Atlantean straight into a wall.

U-Man got up, and started to punch Namor, only to have Namor started to tire. But he soon realized he had no time for this. U-Man was only the tip of the iceberg. The attack on Atlantis, the Serpent Society, the Priscatoid, Fin Fang Foom; a group was planning something, and Namor would get to the bottom of their plot.

Namor wrapped the indestructible chains around his two hands, and threw all the rage of the day at his foe in a mighty swing. He connected right in the stomach of U-Man, who let out a yowl, stood dazed for a moment before coughing up some blood, and falling unconscious.

Namor quickly released his son, making sure he was uninjured. After seeing Maaken was unhurt, he quickly returned to Atlantis to summon physicians for Merrano's other victims. After seeing that they were to be taken care of, Namor returned once more to Atlantis to rest for the evening, knowing that tomorrow he would end this madness once and for all.

Tyrannus silently mediated.

"We are almost complete, master. My allies have already left for the final destination. There, you will be returned to this world."

"HoWEVer, MaINYU, NaMOR Still LIVES!"

"Very well, I shall arrange to take care of him, my lord."

"yes, YOu sHALI! i WiLL taKE a HOST!"

"A host? But my lord, that will-"

"We HaVe EnOuGh Of ThE eMeRaLdS tO fReE a piece OF mY SoUL!"

Tyrannus smiled. He went to the main room, where the emeralds were.

"Kra Sha Krgh Tyre Nidra"

Immediately, a portal opened. And a sphere of energy left it.

It flew over the Pacific Ocean, where it sensed something powerful. It entered the creature. He put up a struggle, but soon his mind was enslaved.

The creature then started to head towards the final emerald.

Issue #12

"Monsters and Monarchs"

by Douglas Ketcham

Namor walked into his throne room. He had checked the Avengers files on Fin Fang Foom, and discovered that Iron Man, one of the strongest Avengers, could barely hold his ground during his battles with the dragon. As such, he would need his most powerful weapon to face this opponent.

He opened a case made specifically so that only he, with his hybrid strength, could lift it. He then grabbed his weapon, a trident.

This might have confused an Atlantean. Tridents were common weapons for them, and though the Sub-Mariner's looked very impressive, golden with red gems engraved in it, how could it be of any use against a mighty dragon?

But this was not a normal trident. It belonged to Neptune, the patron god of Atlantis. Namor had gained it years ago, when Warlord Krang usurped the throne. To prove to the citizens that he was the true ruler, the Avenging Son had to find the trident. After risking his life to save his now-deceased lover, Lady Dorma, from the Faceless Ones, Neptune himself gave him it*.

* (This saga was seen in Tales to Astonish #74-76)

He had not used it in a while, but now he felt it would be needed.

"My king, the ship is ready."

"Excellent. I must leave now."

General Takaki Aso was quickly walking through the halls. He had just received a call from SHIELD that Fin Fang Foom was heading for Tokyo.

"Thank you. I will defend my country from the beast."

He was somewhat happy. He was in charge of the Japanese Self-Defense Forces Kaiju division. At its height in the 1960s, it received millions of dollars to develop anti-monster weaponry to defend Japan against Godzilla and his ilk.

However, in the mid-70s the monsters started disappearing. By 1993, when Aso took over, many in the Diet thought it would be wise to dissolve it. However, Aso, who lost his parents to Godzilla, fought for it, and had so far succeeded. However, he wondered how long he could keep it up. A monster attack would surely help convince the Japanese people the task force was still needed.

Now, though, his thoughts were committed to kill the dragon that was at this moment heading for Japan's capitol.

The Roxxon oil tanker rode into the Bay of Yokohama. No one noticed it, and why should they have? It was the same as any other tanker, nothing special about it.

However, this ship was carrying most unusual cargo.

"Finally, we have arrived. Soon, our god will have this pathetic planet in his grasp."

"You mean gods, don't you, Tyrannus?" added Hugh Jones.

"Why of course, Jones. And we will be rewarded for our dedicated worship of them. We will be in charge of whatever is left of humanity."

The Yellow Claw was silent. Tyrannus took note of this. He trusted Jones, who knew the full scope of this plot, as he was an avid worshiper of Set, and as such they were basically in the same religion. The Claw, though, worshiped no one, and was only in this to gain power. However, if the Claw began to know more, he might become a threat. He had considered disposing of the Asian now, but he might still be useful.

Takeru Hirata rushed to the vault, and punched in a code. He was warned of this his entire life, but he never thought it would come.

He grabbed the emerald, and rushed down to his car. Putting it on the other chair, he started to back out. He then saw the streets were crammed. Everyone was trying to get out of the city before Fin Fang Foom arrived.

"Shit. I don't have time for this."

He started up his car and drove on the sidewalk. The cops would be pissed, but if he were successful, he would not deal with them ever again.

An ominous shadow flew over Tokyo. Fin Fang Foom had arrived, and picked up the pace. His quest was almost over, and then he would be free.

Almost immediately the JSDF opened fire. They unleashed Maser Tanks, which blasted enormous beams of energy at their foe.

The dragon shrugged off the attacks, and unleashed a wave of flame on them. Most of them pulled back, though some were too slow and got caught in the inferno.

He started heading for the Ginza district. Unlike the others, this emerald was moving.

However, something hit him. Hard.

He looked up to see a flying human, wearing a green suit, holding a trident and a sword.

"Fin Fang Foom, I am King Namor the First, ruler of Atlantis, and I have come to stop you."

Foom snorted.

"Many have tried, insect."

"And succeeded."

Foom growled at the mention of his past defeats.

"They were lucky. UNLIKE YOU!" he cried out as he let out a stream of fire at the Sub-Mariner.

Namor dodged, and held up Neptune's Trident. It started to crackle, and attacked the dragon with electric bolts. The dragon recoiled, and started waving his hand all over, trying to swat the Avenging Son.

While this was happening, the JSDF launched their second offensive. The Maser Tanks aimed for his wings, attempting to, at least temporarily, keep him on the ground. Tanks fired near his eyes, trying to blind him.

Namor took advantage of the dragon's distractions, and used the Trident to blast at a finger of the dragon, slicing it off. Fin Fang Foom cried out in pain. However, the pain soon turned to anger at these insects' insolence. They would pay!

"Colonel Dugan, good news!"

"The Behemoth working again?"

"Yes. However, we couldn't find out what went wrong."

"We'll worry about that some other time. Right now, we got a lizard to hunt."

Fin Fang Foom tossed his hand at the Avenging Son, making him slam into the ground.

The dragon immediately leaned down and started to finish killing him. However, Namor had recovered and flew away from the huge claws.

Foom growled at his opponent's agility. He unleashed another wave of fire, but Namor flew up and once again dodged it. But Fin Fang Foom had that power as well. Despite his opponent's attempts, he could still conquer the skies.

Flying up, he tried once again to burn his foe. But this time, Namor pointed his trident at his opponent. The fire stopped halfway, and started to turn back to where it originated. However, Fin Fang Foom still blew his mighty flame, keeping it from harming him.

The two warriors continued this for a minute or so, though to them it seemed like hours.

Then, they grew tired enough so that the stream of flame hit them both, causing them to fall.

China.

In a dark room stood a machine that was a combination of sorcery and science. Connected to it is Sea Leopard, a sea creature who can control sea life. Together, they ensured control over Fin Fang Foom.

However, Sea Leopard suddenly vanished and the machine ceased to work.

The Sub-Mariner and Fin Fang Foom got up. Namor got ready to fight the dragon, but something about the dragon seemed different.

Foom didn't seem to notice him. He seemed to smile.

"AT LAST, I AM FREE!"

"Now, insect, I will finish you!"

Namor immediately got ready to battle, but a voice stopped them.

"Please, gentlemen, er, gentledragon. I fear we have more important things to do."

Namor looked up to see two people, a man and woman dressed in strange garb.

"Doctor Strange! Clea!"

"Yes, Namor. After Wong informed Clea what had happened, she traveled to this dimension to help me. Now, I am recovered, and must act fast."

Foom growled.

"BAH! I TAKE NO ORDERS FROM INSECTS!"

"Excuse me, Fin Fang Foom, but this 'insect' is the Sorcerer Supreme, and guardian of this dimension from threats you cannot fathom," Clea replied sharply.

Foom grunted. He would listen. For now.

"Strange, I do not understand. You told me to stop Fin Fang Foom."

"Yes. However, at the time, he was being controlled. I have now freed him. The real menace is Moloch."

"Who is Moloch?"

"We do not have much time for me to explain. However, he is a spawn of the Elder God Set, and if he is freed, it will be trouble for us all."

Set. Namor knew of this foe well. The Serpent Crown, which Set used to control beings in this world, had once been used to destroy Atlantis and had given him amnesia. Another time it took control of his beloved Lady Dorma and had her almost kill him in the name of Set.

"He is almost free. Indeed, part of Moloch has taken control of a powerful being, and it is just about to arrive here."

Strange then stopped for a moment.

"Stephen, what is it?" Clea asked.

"Moloch's host. He is here."

Tokyo Bay.

The fishing had been terrible today. Some fishermen thought it was pollution. Another one thought it was

mutants, for whatever reason; the others had long ignored his prejudice. Most thought it was just a bad day.

"<Hey, guys, look at this!>"* said one.

*(Translated from Japanese)

The others went to the deck. Some of the water was glowing.

"<What do you think of it?>"

"<Maybe->"

He never finished. A blast of atomic energy shattered the ship, killing them all instantly.

A tail surfaced, splashing the water. Then, the top of the body arose and roared.

It would be immediately recognized. It was Godzilla, king of the monsters. Not since the 1970s had the mutated dinosaur come to Japan.

However, the creature was not merely Godzilla. It was Godzilla's body, but it had a different mind. A mind of evil, 65 million years old.

The mind of Moloch.

Issue #13

"Godzilla Versus Fin Fang Foom"

by *Douglas Ketcham*

Namor started as the lumbering creature known as Godzilla walked towards them. According to Doctor Strange, the King of the Monsters was possessed by a being called Moloch.

"Namor, we must hurry. If we get the final emerald, we can prevent Moloch from ascending."

"But Stephen, what about Godzilla? He'll kill everyone in this city!"

Fin Fang Foom growled.

"Though I care not for you insects, this Moloch is apparently responsible for the humiliation I suffered. As such, I will fight this beast, while you prevent his followers from gaining the last emerald".

With that, the dragon took off and confronted the Monster King.

"It appears we have an unusual ally." commented the Sorcerer Supreme.

"Now, Namor, Clea, we must find the emerald before it is too late."

Tyrannus, Hugh Jones, the Yellow Claw, and their lackeys entered Roxxon's Tokyo headquarters. Jones had ordered everyone off the premises, ensuring no one would bother them.

"My fellows, the time of accession is almost at hand. By mourning, we will be higher than kings, ruling over humanity.," shouted Tyrannus.

"First, however, we need the final emerald."

He started at one of the Yellow Claw's men. He muttered something, and then pointed at him.

Immediately, the man collapsed, screaming in pain. Hair started to grow over his body, and his arms turned to wings. His ears grew pointed, and his teeth sharpened. His nails grew to talons, and he cried out a screech. When it was done, there was now a hideous bat/human creature.

"Now, get the emerald".

The creature flew out the window, into the night.

Fin Fang Foom charged Godzilla. He managed to topple the monster king, but Godzilla grabbed the dragon's neck. Foom flapped his wings frantically, trying to escape his grasp.

Soon realizing it was futile; he started to claw at Godzilla. At first, it did no good, but eventually the constant pain caused the king to release him. Foom then hurled a wave of fire at the King of all Monsters. Godzilla, or rather Moloch, seemed to grin. Godzilla was born in atomic fire! And indeed, it was one of his weapons!

His dorsal fins started to glow a bright blue. He opened his mouth, the inside of which was glowing as well. And then, he unleashed a beam of atomic radiation at his opponent! Fin Fang Foom's fire dissipated and he was struck down! Even then, the ray did not stop, and it pushed the dragon at amazing speed down the street, destroying anything in the way.

The man known only as the Yellow Claw entered the room with one of his assistants. He did not tell the others, as he was suspicious. Ever since he was approached by Tyrannus to help him release a being known as Moloch, he had researched his ancient texts, to learn about it. And the more he learned, the more suspicious he became.

His assistant handed him an ancient crystal sphere. It was one of his most prized possessions, an object that could predict the distant future.

He whispered an incantation as he waved his hands, and the white in the sphere started to dissolve, as an image took place.

The Claw started at it, and gasped.

Takeru Hirata drove up the hill, heading towards his destination. If arrived in time, he would prevent Moloch from coming into this world.

Just then, something landed on his car. Claws tore through the top. Hirata got out his gun and fired at it, but the bat-creature showed no fear, and tore at his face.

The car then crashed into a tree, bursting into flames. The bat grabbed the emerald, and flew off.

Hirata crawled out of the car, only thinking about how he failed.

Namor, Doctor Strange, and Clea approached the Roxxon building.

"Finally, I will be able to put this ordeal to rest" Namor said, crunching his fist.

"Wait, Namor. There could be using sorcery".

No sooner had Strange warned the Sub-Mariner than had the ground started to rumble. Three humongous vines burst out, first striking Strange and Clea.

Namor flew up and punched one, but the other two immediately struck him after. In only a few seconds, the three heroes were out cold.

Fin Fang Foom flew over the city, dodging Godzilla's blasts of atomic fire. The battle was a stalemate now, as neither could hurt each other.

Foom then flew down, striking Godzilla's head. The monster king fell, but grabbed the dragon's tail, preventing him from escaping.

Foom turned and bit Godzilla's neck. The king of the monsters blasted his Atomic Ray, and Foom let go, and fell.

Namor slowly opened his eyes. He tried to get up, but saw that he was strapped onto the wall by vines. He turned and saw Doctor Strange and Clea in the same situation.

"I see you are awake" said Tyrannus, with Jones and several armed men at his side.

Namor recognized him. Though he had not encountered him, he had read the Avenger file on him.

"Tyrannus. So you are behind this"

"No, he's not, Namor" Clea interrupted.

"What?"

"It is Tyrannus' body, yes. But the spirit is not."

He turned to Tyrannus.

"I know much about you, Thulsa-Mainyu".

Mainyu smiled.

"Oh, my, the Sorcerer Supreme recognizes me! I'm so honored!" he said sarcastically.

"Stephen, who is this fiend, and what is his connection to Moloch?" asked Namor.

"Oh, I'll tell. Strange here would probably mess it up." Mainyu answered.

"It starts 4 billion years ago. Earth was young, and despite what your scientists say, microorganisms were not it's first inhabitants. The Earth biosphere gave birth to beings we now know as the Elder Gods. Gaea, Cthon, Set, Y'Garon, you know. However, expect for Gaea, all of them turned 'evil'. So, her son Attum drove them from this dimension.

"However, the Elder God Set was not about to surrender. He gained a mystic link with the dinosaurs, and because Gaea thought he was dead, he was unchallenged.

"However, when he had the dinosaurs wage war against the mammals, favored by Gaea, he decided to make sure he had an agent on Earth if he lost. Disguising himself, he mated with Gaea!

"Eventually, Attum defeated him. However, Gaea, as Set predicted, did not have the heart to murder her son. As such, she had it ensiled in an egg, and hid it in a mountain."

"We're be there in about 10 minutes, Colonel Dugan," said one of the privates aboard the Behemoth.

"Good. Now make sure we're not going to have a repeat of last time. I don't know why my old pal Godzilla is actin' up, but he isn't a pussycat" Dum-Dum Dugan replied.

"This is where I come in" Mainyu continued.

"I was born sometime before the Second Host of the Celestials. Back in those days, to get power, you became either a barbarian, or a sorcerer. Since I had more brains than brawn, I decided to enrich myself in the mystic arts.

"In one of my attempts, I was about to sacrifice ten or so virgins, but a barbarian arrived, and I tripped and fell.

"It seemed as though I would die, but as luck would have it, it was the same mountain that Moloch was trapped in. He gave me the ability to separate my soul from my body, allowing me to survive all this time in different bodies. In exchange, I became his humble servant.

"A thousand years later, I had succeeded in freeing Moloch. However, Gaea had contacted all of the gods,

and together they sent him to a pocket dimension.

"However, I managed to save a piece of Moloch's conscious and I transferred them into seven emeralds, and a golden shield, thanks to a ceremony and 100 child sacrifices. Unfortunately, the gods stole them and hid them across the world. Now, though, they will be reunited, and Moloch will walk the Earth again!"

"No" replied the Yellow Claw.

The Yellow Claw's men fired at the vines, with a solution devised by the Claw. Immediately, the three heroes were free.

Mainyu was burning with anger. He raised his hand at the Claw, and a bolt of lightning threw the man out the window. He then shocked all of his men, killing them.

Then, the bat-creature arrived, with the final emerald. Namor flew up and struck it, forcing it to drop the emerald. Mainyu muttered a spell, and it came to his hand.

"At last..."

He put the emerald in the shield, but nothing happened. Jones walked up.

"What's wro-"

Mainyu plunged his sword into Jones, and he fell on the shield.

"Sorry, Hugh, but we needed a sacrifice, and I didn't have time to be picky".

The shield started to glow, and it levitated, leaving the building.

Then, it flew into the area where Godzilla and Fin Fang Foom were battling, and landed. It caused a hole in the ground, with raging fire inside.

Godzilla then stumbled. The sprit of Moloch had left him, to join its body.

Then, a huge claw appeared out of the hole. Moloch then crawled out, and stood.

He had saurian features, and had two huge horns on his head. He had long claws, and towered over the other two monsters.

He roared in joy. He was free! And he would destroy humanity and anything else that stood in his way!

Issue #14

"Accession"

by *Douglas Ketcham*

Moloch, banished for thousands of years from this plane, started at his surroundings, his soon-to-be kingdom.

He raised his arms. Though he would not be at his full power for an hour or so, he could still create a barrier, preventing anyone from entering.

At his command, a transparent dome appeared over Tokyo, locking everyone out.

He then raised his hands again, creating a portal in the sky.

From the Roxxon building, Namor and Strange started at the demon.

"What is he doing, Strange?" the Sub-Mariner asked.

"He is summoning his father, Set, to this plane" Strange answered grimly.

"You said Set was torn into seven pieces and scattered?"

"He was. Moloch is reuniting him. We must act fast.

"Clea, perform the exorcism spell. We can't have Mainyu interfering while I try to stop this!"

"What? I have to settle with her because the Sorcerer Supreme cannot be bothered? Well, I guess you can be a warm-up!" taunted Mainyu.

"Fool! I am Strange's near equal! I am the niece of the Dread Dormammu and the true-ruler of his realm!" she cried out as she shot two beams of light at Thulsa-Mainyu, temporally stunning him.

"Foolish women! I still have ways to fight!"

With that, the bat creature descended striking first Strange, who fell, and then Clea.

Namor then grabbed the bat, and tried to tear at him with its talons. The Sub-Mariner punched it, and

dragged it to the ground. However, it then swung at the Avenging Son, pushing him away.

Fin Fang Foom shuttered at the evil radiating from Moloch. Part of him wanted to run, to get away. But Foom knew that there would be no running from this beast. So, he sent a wave of flame at him.

Moloch cringed a bit, but that was all. He turned at started at this, this, insect that dared to battle him!

He walked over to the dragon, and grabbed his neck. He started to crush it, and then threw him.

Then, he felt a blast from the back. A blast that actually hurt him! He turned to see his former host, Godzilla, looking angrily at him.

Moloch was impressed by this beast's strength. And perhaps he could use a better technique than simply killing him.

His mind entered Godzilla, but this time to communicate. For the purposes of this tale, we will hear it in English.

"Why do you fight me and my father Set? We are your allies" the demonic fiend started.

Godzilla seemed to lower his guard, as if he was willing to listen.

"You fight for Gaea, she who betrayed your race!"

Godzilla now seemed to be even more interested.

"Yes. Set was guardian of the dinosaurs, and Gaea, in spite, allowed them to die off! Only a fraction survived, while humans and mammals rule the planet!" Ally yourselves with us! We will restore this planet to their rightful rulers, and make Gaea suffer for her crimes!"

Godzilla paused for a moment. He then responded with a blast of atomic fire.

Moloch fell to the ground. But he then got up, enraged. He also saw that Fin Fang Foom had recovered.

Moloch grinned. He hadn't fought for a millennium, and it would be nice to warm up.

Namor grabbed the bat and slammed it on the floor. The creature dug its talons into the Sub-Mariner's chest, causing blood to rush out.

Namor cried out, but then punched the creature. He grabbed its feet, and despite the pain, tore them out of his chest.

If only I had Neptune's trident, I would be able to finish this monstrosity easily, he thought. Mainyu must have taken it when he captured us.

Still, he would persevere without it. He continued punching the bat.

Meanwhile, Clea and Thulsa-Mainyu were in a magical duel, throwing incantations at each other. However, Clea was growing tired, while Mainyu seemed renewed every second.

Namor wished he could do more to help her and Strange than beat up mere a flunky, while others fought the orchestrators of this plot.

However, the thought of giving up never once reached Namor's mind. He would fight against whatever threatened the world, whether it is this bat, Thulsa-Mainyu, or Moloch himself!

Namor grabbed the bat's neck, and started to squeeze. He then raised the sharp wings on his arms and slashed its stomach.

The beast fell down, dead.

Now, he would deal with Mainyu.

Godzilla unleashed his Atomic Ray at Moloch, and Fin Fang Foom was using his flames at full blast. Moloch groaned, but it was lessening. He got more powerful each moment, and soon these two would be merely flies to swat. Just then, two things cut into him on his back. He looked to see two cables, connected to a flying ship. Then, a surge of electricity came running down, into the demon.

Inside the Behemoth, Dugan watched the battle. He had come to fight Fin Fang Foom, but it was clear that huge beast was the true threat.

However, Moloch was more than a huge beast.

Suddenly, the electricity changed directions. It was now harming the Behemoth!

Inside the helicarrier, computers were scrambled and screens broke. It was only a few seconds before it started to fall.

It crashed on the ground, and would not be going up again.

"Bow before, wench, and perhaps I'll spare you!" yelled Mainyu as he shrugged off the spells of the sorceress.

"NEVER!" she yelled.

"Okay, I'll make you bow myself!" he called back.

Clea felt her body moving independent of herself, her head lowering.

Thulsa-Mainyu laughed, when suddenly, something tapped him. He turned to see a very angry Namor.

The Sub-Mariner immediately punched the sorcerer's arms, shattering the bones. Before he could react, the Sub-Mariner punched his jaw, and kicked his legs. Both of them were now broken.

Clea saw that Mainyu was vulnerable, and uttered the incantation.

Mainyu tried to talk, but doing so felt like he was being stabbed. Then, he felt himself being ripped from this body.

Tyrannus fell to the ground.

"It is done. Mainyu has been banished fro-" Clea started, but then both she and Namor were whisked to the wall.

"Did you really think Thulsa-Mainyu would be defeated so easily?" said a voice they both knew.

They saw Doctor Strange enter the room, levitating.

"Neptune, no..." whispered Namor in shock.

"Yes, Namor. Thulsa-Mainyu has found a new host: that of STEPHEN STRANGE!"

Issue #15

"Against A God"

by Douglas Ketcham

Namor vainly tried to break free, but it was no use. Both he and Clea were stuck to the wall as if chains were binding them.

"Fools! You didn't expect me to merely get a new host after expelling me from the last one" said his voice.

His voice was chilling, because it was the voice of their friend. The voice they remember talking with, the voice that told them of solutions to their problems, and a voice that aided them in battle.

Now, though, the voice was threatening them, laughing maniacally. It was telling them they would die a horrible death.

It was the voice of Doctor Stephen Strange.

"With Strange's mystical talent added to my own, I am unstoppable!" the mad man exclaimed.

"For a demonstration, I will slowly deprive you of oxygen" he crackled.

Namor and Clea's throats then started to go inward, choking them.

"Ugh"

Dugan just got up, recovering quickly from the crash. He looked at the controls, but soon realized they were fried.

Forge is going to have my ass he thought, but then realized they were others on the Behemoth. He ran over to Howards, the pilot.

"Howards, howards, you okay?" he asked. He checked his pulse, confirming he was alive, though unconscious.

"S-s-sir" said a soldier approaching Dugan, in pretty good shape.

Dugan rushed over to him, helping him to his feet.

"How are you feeling, soldier?" Dugan asked.

"Good, just a little shocked"

"Ya' think you can check the other agents here?"

"I, I guess. Why?"

Dugan checked his gun.

"Because I'm going outside, and find out what the hell we're dealing with".

Namor struggled, but found it was futile. He could not suck in even the smallest bit of air.

Mainyu grinned at the suffering he was causing.

Then, he started to shudder, as if he was getting a headache.

"No..." he whispered.

Namor and Clea then found they could breathe again.

Mainyu moaned, and growled angrily. However, he did not seem to notice Namor and Clea.

Clea realized what was happening. The spirits of Strange and Mainyu were fighting for control of the body!

Fin Fang Foom tore at Moloch, causing small wounds. He was fighting with a fury unseen by the dark god.

"YOU SHALL PAY FOR ENSLAVING ME!" the dragon roared.

Moloch opened his mouth to unleash a ball of energy that hit Foom, sending him back.

"FOOLISH BEAST! YOU ARE ARROGANT ENOUGH TO FIGHT A

GOD?!"

Foom growled, and flew straight into Moloch, knocking him down.

Moloch grabbed his neck, starting to choke him as he rose.

Strange's body twirled and tumbled, as the two sorcerers battled for possession of it.

Namor and Clea watched, pondering what to do. Should they risk performing the exorcism, forcing Mainyu out of the hero's body, giving the evil sorcerer time to retake it and kill them both? Or should they slay the body, sacrificing a great ally. Either way, Mainyu could take possession of either one of them.

It was obvious that they had to try to free Strange, for at least they would have him against Mainyu, while they had the time.

Dugan was in awe as he looked at the battle. Godzilla, Fin Fang Foom, and Moloch seemed like warring gods, not noticing the small mortals below.

Still, he knew whom to root for. He aimed his gun at Moloch, and fired.

The demon didn't react; didn't even notice. Dugan might as well have used a stick.

"Would you like to fire again, Mr. Dugan, or do you want to be useful?" said a voice Dugan knew.

The SHIELD agent turned to see an old, Asian man accompanied by several armed men.

"Well, so the Yellow Claw is here".

The Asian villain was there, though not standing. He looked injured, and was leaning on two of his minions, unable to stand.

"I am surprised to find you here, Dugan. Surprised and glad".

Dugan glared at the Claw. He had long been an enemy of SHIELD, and even with what was going on, Dugan wasn't going to forget it.

"What do you mean?" the SHIELD agent asked

"I know of a way to end this, but I need you get something".

"What?"

"A shield".

"Why should I?"

"It's the key to victory against Moloch"

"Why can't you send a lackey?" he asked, suspiciously.

"Most of them were killed, and besides, it is in the middle of that battle between those reptiles".

Dugan started at the old man.

"How do I know this isn't a plot that will allow you to conquer the world of something?"

"I suppose you can't. However, can it be worse than what will happen if you let this continue?"

"What do you mean? We just have a giant monster here."

"Fool! That creature is a god! And his father is even more powerful than he is -- if Moloch escapes, he will free him! If this happens, all of us are doomed!"

Dugan sighed.

"What do I need to know?"

Mainyu struggled to regain control of the body. Finally, he felt Strange weakening, and looked through the eyes of Strange's body.

He saw Clea uttering an incantation. No! This body was too perfect to loose!

He hurled a bolt at her, but Namor jumped in front of it.

"Strange is a good friend of mine, Mainyu, and you will leave his body!"

"Never!"

He shot bolts of energy at him. If he didn't have to deal with Strange's attempts to free him, he could squash those two like insects!

However, no matter what, he would triumph!

Dugan started as he saw the three behemoths battling so close to him.

Still, he wasn't running away. He was used to being in tough spots, ever since World War II.

He looked through his binoculars, trying to find out where the shield was. To his disappointment, he realized he would have to get in closer.

He looked up in awe as Godzilla unleashed another blast of Atomic fire at Moloch.

"Go get 'em, buddy" he whispered.

He went up a mile farther, then tried again. This time, he succeeded. However, he saw it in the middle of the battle.

"Just great".

Namor swung at Mainyu, who dodged.

"Foolish fish! You will suffer eternal torment for this!" the sorcerer roared.

He uttered an incantation, and bolts of energy struck the Sub-Mariner.

"You are fool, Mainyu, for angering the Avenging Son!" he replied, punching Mainyu.

"Clea, when can you perform the exorcism?" Namor asked.

"Soon, hopefully. I'm somewhat weak after the last one" she replied.

Mainyu sent a blast to Namor's chest.

"You might as well give up now, witch! Your efforts will be useless against

me!" he roared.

Dugan felt insignificant being so close to the three behemoths, like an ant next to the Avengers.

He was close to the shield, so close he could run up, get it, and be back in a matter of seconds. Well, he could if a giant monster WWF was being held right there.

Godzilla was tearing at Moloch, while Fin Fang Foom was blasting flames at the spawn of Set, which caused great pain in Moloch's wounded areas.

Dugan ran into it the battle zone, immediately having to dodge a piece of fallen derbies.

He continued, until he found the shield. He reached and touched it.

Just then, Moloch looked down. He felt that someone was trying to take the shield!

He broke free of Godzilla and reached down, to crush the puny insect that dared steal what belong to him!

"Puny mortal! You dare try to stop me-"

Godzilla head butted him to the left side, saving Dugan.

"Thanks, buddy. That's three times you saved my hide" said Dugan as he picked up the shield.

Mainyu muttered an incantation, and his hands, or Strange's hands, depending on how you see it, started to glow red.

He then started to punch Namor, and managed to drive him back.

"Well, Namor, I decided to fight your way, with brute strength" he cried as he knocked the Sub-Mariner to the floor.

He swung at him again, and the Avenging Son seemed to be unconscious.

"Now, witch, I shall deal with you!" he cried out.

However, as he levitated towards her, he was knocked down.

"The one, true Sub-Mariner relies on more than strength when fighting a foe" said Namor, standing above him.

"As do I!" Thulsa-Mainyu called out, as fire surrounded the Avenging Son.

"It will take more than flames to weaken me!" Namor yelled as he flew out and hit Mainyu's jaw, though holding back most of his strength so to avoid injuring his friend.

"Your loyalty to Strange will be your undoing" he commented, an evil grin of his face.

He would be dead now if Strange weren't struggling! He thought.

Perhaps he should just.... No, not yet. The forces of Moloch still had the advantage.

Moloch threw several fireballs at Dugan, but Godzilla and Foom were causing him to miss.

That insect could ruin everything! Moloch angrily thought.

Godzilla then blasted him with his Atomic Ray again, but this time, it barley hurt. He was powerful enough to ignore the Monster King's strongest weapon.

It was time to destroy both of the giants. But, first, he would contact Mainyu...

Mainyu! Moloch yelled out the sorcerer's head.

What is it, my lord? He answered.

We must finish our foes now! We must combine our minds now!

Must we, Lord Moloch? I-

You shall obey me, Mainyu! Though your service has satisfied me, you are an imbecile to think you may question me!

Yes, my lord

Mainyu uttered an incantation, and his eyes started to glow.

"Clea, what is happening?" Namor asked.

"I'm not certain, but if I'm right, we're in even more trouble" the sorceress answered.

Moloch's red eyes started to turn green, as energy seemed to wash over him.

Godzilla and Foom started at the demon, wondering what was happening.

Thulsa-Mainyu looked as if he was a conductor, with green lightning all around him.

"Strange can no longer fight me, fools! I am now one with Moloch!"

Namor charged him, but with a turn of the hand Mainyu threw him to the floor.

"It is almost time for the accession of Set!"

"You, Namor, have been a nuisance to him for quite a while. As such, your corpse will be a welcoming gift for him!" the sorcerer cried out.

A shot of lightning came thrusting down to him.

Namor, repeat what I say if you want to survive said a familiar voice in Namor's head.

By the power of the Vishanti...

"By the power of the Vishanti..."

In the name of the All-Seeing Ancient One...

"In the name of the All-Seeing Ancient One..."

Let the lightning that threatens me....

"Let the lightning that threatens me...."

Dissipate!

"Dissipate!"

The ray faded. Namor realized he had help.

"Thank you, Stephen".

"Your welcome" the astral form of Doctor Strange replied.

Moloch glared at his saurian foes. Godzilla's atomic fire seemed to wash over the demon. The dark god seemed to chuckle at his foe's futility.

Fin Fang Foom realized this, and flew over the demonic fiend, but Moloch pulled him down and put him in the way of the Atomic Ray, burning him.

Godzilla realized his ally was being injured, and stopped. However, the damage had been done.

Moloch laughed at his enemies, and then unleashed electricity from his hands, which flowed through Godzilla and Foom, causing great pain.

Godzilla growled, and then fell to the ground.

Namor and Clea looked at the astral form of Doctor Strange.

"My friends, Moloch has entered my body, forcing me out. As such, Mainyu will no longer use weaker spells"

"As such, we must fight him with magic. Clea, you know the mystic arts, but as for you, Namor, just repeat my incantations".

"Very well, Strange", Namor replied.

Mainyu threw a fireball at them, but Clea diverted it.

"You fools still fight me. So be it!" he exclaimed.

Dugan rushed to the Yellow Claw.

"I have the shield, what do I do now?" the SHIELD agent asked.

One of the Claw's men handed him a piece of paper.

"Go to the Roxxon building, and give both the shield and the paper to Doctor Strange. He will now what to do" the Claw explained.

Dugan sighed.

"Fine".

Godzilla lay on the ground, electricity flowing through his body, burning everything inside.

He cried out in pain, trying to get up, to show his challenger why he had earned the title of the king of the monsters!

He struggled to get up, getting Moloch's attention. He laughed and blasted him, causing Godzilla to collapse.

"Foolish creature! Do you not yet understand I am a god, and you have no hope of defeating me?!"

Godzilla growled. He did not care what his opponent was. Whether it is a god, an alien, or anything else, the fact was that it was a foe, and it must be destroyed!

He started to get up again. Moloch was somewhat impressed by his foe's refusal to admit defeat. Still, the beast had his chance to join his side. He got ready to blast him again.

However, Godzilla struck first, blasting at him with his Atomic Ray. But instead of being blue, it was white. He had used it once before, against the mighty Destroyah, destroying the beast. Now, he turned it on Moloch!

Dugan rushed to the Roxxon building, which darkness seemed to radiate from.

He ran in, and lightning burst from the walls, trying to destroy him.

"I'm getting too old for this" he muttered as he dodged them.

He went into the elevator, but it wouldn't work.

"Crap".

He got out his gun, blew out the roof of the elevator, got out, and started to climb.

Fin Fang Foom took advantage of Moloch's shock at Godzilla's attack and crashed into him, knocking him down.

He tore at the dark god with more fury than anytime before. The pain Moloch was inflicting on him was lost as he clawed and tore at his foe.

The demonic fiend pushed Foom off of him, but was then blasted again by Godzilla's atomic ray.

He was enraged that such puny mortals could harm him so! He threw two balls of energy at his opponents. The two reptiles were unaffected by the blasts.

Moloch growled. He threw two more, and this time they were knocked down.

Dugan rushed into the room, to see a battle going on. Doctor Strange was fighting the Sub-Mariner and some woman.

"Strange, I have something for ya!" Dugan yelled.

"No, fool!" yelled Namor.

"That's not Strange!"

Mainyu forced them to the floor with his hand.

"Pay no attention to them! Give me those items!" the sorcerer said.

Dugan paused for a moment, taking in what he saw.

Dugan got out his gun and shot at the sorcerer, forcing him to the ground.

"Sorry, pal, but I'm old enough to know who the bad guys are".

"Pathetic worm! I will hang your corpse-"

"Well, thanks for confirming it" interrupted Dugan.

"Mister Dugan, give me the items!" Clea cried out.

He ran towards her, and gave her the shield and paper.

"Excellent. Now we have a chance," she said.

Moloch tore at his opponents violently, throwing balls of energy and rays of lightning at them. He was no longer holding back, his eyes filled with hate.

Godzilla and Fin Fang Foom felt the same, though, and were attacking with equal fury. Godzilla blasted blast after blast of atomic fire at him, while Fin Fang Foom fought him up close.

Foom growled and roared. Moloch had humiliated him, used him as a pawn, and he would pay! He clawed at his face, blood splashing out of the wound.

Godzilla rushed up and kicked his demonic foe, knocking him down.

Clea looked over the paper.

"Okay, I think I got it" she whispered.

Namor dodged another blast from Thulsa-Mainyu. However, the sorcerer then turned to see Clea.

"You will never succeed witch!" he cried, sending a huge blast of energy at her.

Namor jumped in front of her, but yelled out in pain. The blast knocked him down, almost making him unconscious.

"Namor!" cried out Clea.

"I'm, I'm fine. Just read the spell!" he yelled out.

Moloch laughed as he started to grow. His power was complete!

Godzilla blasted him, but the demon easily ignored it, and sent a blast to the monster king, knocking him down.

Clea started to read aloud the spell.

"You fools are too late! Moloch is gaining his full power as we speak!" Mainyu exclaimed.

Namor rushed him, muttering an incantation from Strange and striking him.

However, Mainyu flew up, and threw a blast at him.

"You fools!" he exclaimed.

Dugan fired at him, stunning him.

"Pathetic mortal!"

Then, Clea started to chant.

Mainyu sent an energy blast at her, but Namor, hearing an incantation from the sorcerer supreme, managed to dissipate it.

"You pathetic beings!"

"You're starting to sound like a broken record, Mainyu!" commented Namor as he punched him.

Godzilla blasted Moloch, but he was doing it with less frequency. The demon was showing no sign of being harmed, and the blasts were draining Godzilla's energy.

"Kra Ha Kia Groug Albezmeler Mosa..." Clea spoke.

Mainyu growled. He would not let victory be snatched when he was so close to winning.

However, Namor, with the help of the sorcerer supreme, was defeating him!

He unleashed huge bolts of energy, knocking Namor down.

Dugan jumped the sorcerer, grabbing him.

"Foolish old man!" he yelled, knocking down the SHIELD agent.

"Namor!" Clea yelled out.

"I need you to help!"

"What do you need?" the Avenging Son asked.

"The shield is both physical and magical. In addition to combating it with magic, we need someone with great strength to destroy it" she explained.

Namor flew over to her, and grabbed the shield. He then attempted to bend it, but it was a strong metal, and wouldn't bulge.

Mainyu kicked Dugan out of the way, and then saw Namor.

The Sub-Mariner tried to break it, but it would not shatter.

"No, you will not!" exclaimed Thulsa-Mainyu.

Namor started to sweat hazily, as the shield refused to budge.

Then, he stopped. Strange had reentered his body.

Namor grew more tired, but it started to crack. But could he finish in time.

"Get out, Strange! You will be crushed in seconds," Mainyu cried out.

But that was all that was needed.

Namor's bones in his hands cracked as the shield broke. He moaned in great pain, but was comforted by his victory.

It shattered into a thousand pieces, as the emeralds flew off in different directions.

"NO!" yelled Mainyu, who soon fell to the ground.

Moloch saw the portal on the ground, and it started to suck him in. Part of him realized he had no hope of winning.

Still, another part of him refused to! He would not leave! Not when victory was so close to his grasp!

As he tried to stay in, Fin Fang Foom flew towards him.

"No!" yelled Moloch.

Foom collided with the dark god, sending him into the portal.

"No....." yelled Moloch, who was heard lower and lower until the portal closed.

Doctor Strange got up. Clea and Namor quickly came to his side.

"Stephen, are you in control?" asked Clea.

"Yes, I am well."

"What happened to Mainyu?" asked the Sub-Mariner.

"Mainyu was connected to Moloch's mind, so when Moloch was forced out of this realm, so was he" explained the master of the mystic arts.

"However, the emeralds have spread through out the city. We must collect them" he explained.

He then saw Namor's hands.

"Namor, your hands, how are they?" he asked.

"Broken. However, I am accompanying you to get the emeralds. I was here when this began, and I will be at its end".

Strange sighed. Namor was stubborn, and he was much too tired to argue.

"Very well. The worst is past, anyway".

***NEXT ISSUE:** The worst has passed, but that won't make what happens next a walk in the park.*

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Godzilla also saved Dum-Dum Dugan in Godzilla: King of the Monsters #5 and #14

Issue #16

"Aftermath"

by Douglas Ketcham

Author's Note: This is set before Excalibur #23

Namor, Doctor Strange, and Clea watched as Godzilla walked back into the sea. His opponent had been defeated, and he was tired. With a roar of victory, he sank beneath the waves.

Fin Fang Foom was also leaving, flying towards his home in China, eagerly awaiting a long rest.

Dum-Dum Dugan walked up towards the group. "Tyrannus' body is missing, so he's probably still alive. Couldn't find the Claw either" he explained.

"That is okay, Mr. Dugan," replied Doctor Strange. "Our main focus now is to collect the emeralds, especially now."

Still, that wasn't the most important thing Strange had on his mind. Lately, he felt weaker, more exhausted. He was surprised how easily Mainyu had taken over his body, and wondered if there was something more to recent events.

Still, as he had just said, he had more pressing matters at hand.

Haneda Airport.

A guard looked up to see a jet landing. Only military personnel were allowed into the city at the moment, and from what he could see, the jet was not affiliated with the JSDF*

* (The Japanese self-defense Forces)

As it landed, he ran up to it.

<Hey, hey! The city's been evacuated, and no one is allowed in->*

* (Translated from Japanese)

Suddenly, a man, dressed in a snake suit, jumped out. Before the guard could react, he grabbed his neck, and snapped it.

"Was that necessary, Cottonmouth?" asked Bushmaster.

"Well, did you want the authorities to know we were here? It wouldn't be very hard to find a bunch of people dressed like snakes in an evacuated city" replied his teammate.

"Indeed. Now, people, it is time for the Serpent Society to strike," exclaimed King Cobra.

"We all know the deal. Matheson wants the emerald, more if possible. And as an added bonus, reports say that Namor and Strange are in the city. Perhaps we will be able to redeem ourselves after are humiliating defeat."

Takeru Hirata slowly walked up the hill. He was in a joyous mood, for by some miracle Moloch had been driven back to the pit where he came from. Still, this had taught him that he could not shake his responsibilities. The emeralds must be hidden again.

Namor reached down and picked up the emerald, despite the pain.

"Please, Namor, let me!" Strange yelled.

"Strange, I will not be useless. The pain should cease soon," the King of Atlantis replied.

"Namor, must you be so stubborn. You should return to Atlantis to heal," replied Strange.

"Why don't you go search for the other emeralds, like Clea is doing. We'll recover them faster?"

"No, Namor. You are injured, my friend, and you should not be left

unattended."

"I am no child, Strange. However, I recognize that you mean well, Strange, and I will let you stay."

"Thank you," Strange said, quietly adding "*Your majesty*" sarcastically.

<Sir, it's the Diet! >* A corporal said running up to General Aso.

The general grabbed the phone.

<Yes? What, but- Yes, I understand> he solemnly said, hanging up the phone.

<Corporal? > Aso asked.

<Yes? >

<Call the men back. Big Hero Six is taking over>

The emerald levitated and landed in Clea's hands. It then flashed a little.

She was not that surprised. The emeralds were in a chaotic state, after being used to free Moloch. Even some movement could cause them to react in an unknown way.

"All right, hand over the emerald," said a menacing voice. The Sorceress Supreme of the Dark Dimension turned to see Bushmaster and Fer-De-Lance.

"Just hand it over, and there won't be any trouble," he continued. Clea smiled, and shot a beam of energy at the Serpents, causing Bushmaster to fall. Fer-De-Lance attempted to leap upon her and strike her with her claws, but Clea levitated the serpent away, slamming her into a wall.

"That was fun," she commented, and then set out to find the other emeralds.

General Aso watched as the jet started to hover to the ground. Japan's newest superheroes were about to make their debut.

Big Hero Six had disbanded earlier in the year. First the deaths of Sunfire and

the Silver Samurai. Then, Hiro left, and Baymax followed him. As such, Honey Lemon was reassigned to Excalibur, and the team was disbanded.

However, unknown to many, Japan had been working on a new version. As the plane opened, the new team came out.

First was Colonel Sho Kuroki, a 30-year old man who had worked in the JSDF and SHIELD. The young man was now the leader of Big Hero Six, and was expected to make it a well functioning team.

Next was Baymax II. Although the original Baymax refused to leave the side of Hiro Takachiho, the boy genius was all too happy to build another robot to serve on the team. Baymax II was equipped with all the abilities of the first, including strength and energy projection.

Following him was Gogo Tomago, the only returning member from the previous team. She had the ability to turn into a ball of energy, and is also known for her temper.

Then came Zone Angel, a woman in her twenties, wearing a white-Grey metallic suit. Her real was Hikari Tsuburaya, and she was not fully human. In 1973, an alien craft crashed in Japan, and the dead alien's DNA was inserted into Hikari, a baby at the time, giving her strength and enhanced senses.

A large man then stepped out. His name was Kintaro. According the government, he is a mutant. They are lying. He was born in Japan thousands of years ago, the son of Gaea, the Elder God who mothered all the pantheons. For years, he protected mortals from extraordinary dangers. Now, with the Japanese gods sensing an ancient and evil threat coming, he will do so again. He does not care what is said about his origins, only that he must protect his land again.

Finally, an old man, about 60 years old or so, stepped out. His was dressed in a white robe, similar to that of a Shinto monk. He was Takashi Yamane, Zougeiro Kisai. For all his life he had studied sorcery, and now he decided to use it for Big Hero Six.

General Aso stared at them, somewhat angered at them for taking his authority away from him. However, he would not let it affect his actions. It was time for Japan's super-team to show what they could do.

Cottonmouth and Rattler walked silently slithered through the alley, their prey near.

"I can see it," Rattler announced.

"Great. Now, grab it!" Cottonmouth yelled.

"Easiest million we ever made."

Namor and Doctor Strange slowly closed in on their prize.

"It should be just down the street."

However, another approached the emerald. A stray dog unnoticed by the two heroes.

Strange decided to make this easy, and to levitate the emerald to them. However, a bright flash was seen, and the dog started to change.

The emerald floated into Strange's hand, when he heard a loud growl. A huge dog, the size of a small tiger, leaped at Namor, and then bit his arm.

Namor cringed with pain, as his arms were still weakened from breaking the shield.

The Sub-Mariner threw the dog off him, then got up. He charged the animal and started to slug it. Then, though, the dog started to glow, and it then returned to normal.

"I hope I haven't offended you by depriving a victory," Strange said jokingly.

"What was that thing?" Namor said, cutting to the heart of the matter.

"A normal dog, transformed by a release of energy from the emerald. We might be seeing more of them," the Sorcerer explained.

Puff Adder and Basilisk stood while Anaconda was on the cell phone.

"Okay, boss," she concluded before turning it off.

"What was that about?" asked Basilisk, annoyed.

"We just got more competition. Remember Big Hero Six?"

"They disbanded."

"Well, there not anymore. We should keep a lookout."

"Eh. Just some new guys to kill" Puff Adder commented.

"Besides, we got two emeralds already. Let's just get 'em back to Cobra," Basilisk concluded.

Just then, a huge figure jumped out of the sky and punched the Basilisk. Five other figures followed.

"You three are under arrest," announced Colonel Kuroki, pointing a gun at them.

The three looked at each over, and laughed.

"You're new at this game, aren't you?" the Basilisk said, blasting two beams of ice out of his eyes at the Japanese heroes.

Kuroki started to be encased in ice. Baymax II then let a rippling stream of fire out of his mouth, canceling the ice out.

Anaconda charged them, when Gogo Tomago did the same.

"GOGO TOMAGO!" she yelled out, turning into a ball of energy, which collided with the snake woman. The two fell, but Anaconda got up first. She prepared to smash Tomago, when Kintaro appeared behind her, and punched her in the back.

Zone Angel was facing the Basilisk, using judo techniques to dodge his blasts and to strike him.

"Stand still, woman!" the frustrated villain, yelled.

She didn't answer, didn't let his jabs distract her. She then kicked him in the head, sending him to the ground.

"I'll stay still now."

Puff Adder was nervous. Carrying the two emeralds, he started to run.

Kintaro started to chase after him. Puff Adder decided to play a gamble, and threw of the emeralds at him.

There was a flash, blinding Big Hero Six while Adder made his escape.

"They have one of the emeralds?!" King Cobra yelled angrily.

"Yeah, but we have two-

"I know, but if we get them all we'll be billionaires!"

"Well, we have more than them, don't we?" asked Adder.

"Yes, but not most of them. Fer-De-Lance just called me. Namor and the sorcerers have three, we have two, and the new team has one. Bushmaster!"

"Yes?"

"Go find the remaining one!"

The mercenary slithered out.

"In the meantime, we will come up with a strategy to get the rest of them."

Clea levitated to the ground as Namor and Doctor Strange watched.

"Excellent. We have three" Strange announced.

"Yes, but I am afraid we are not the only ones looking for them. The, uh, Serpent Society, I believe you called them, are looking for the emeralds," she explained.

Strange sighed.

"Somehow, I knew this was going to be complicated."

Finally, Takeru Hirata had arrived at the shrine. He bowed his head, and started chanting.

"Odin, Zeus, Izanagi, Ra, Quetzalcoatl..."

A blue mist entered his body, and his skin started to blacken. Talons started to

burst out of his body.

His eyes glowed red, as the last of his clothes were shredded from him. His hair fell out, and the transformation was complete.

The Keeper was reborn.

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