

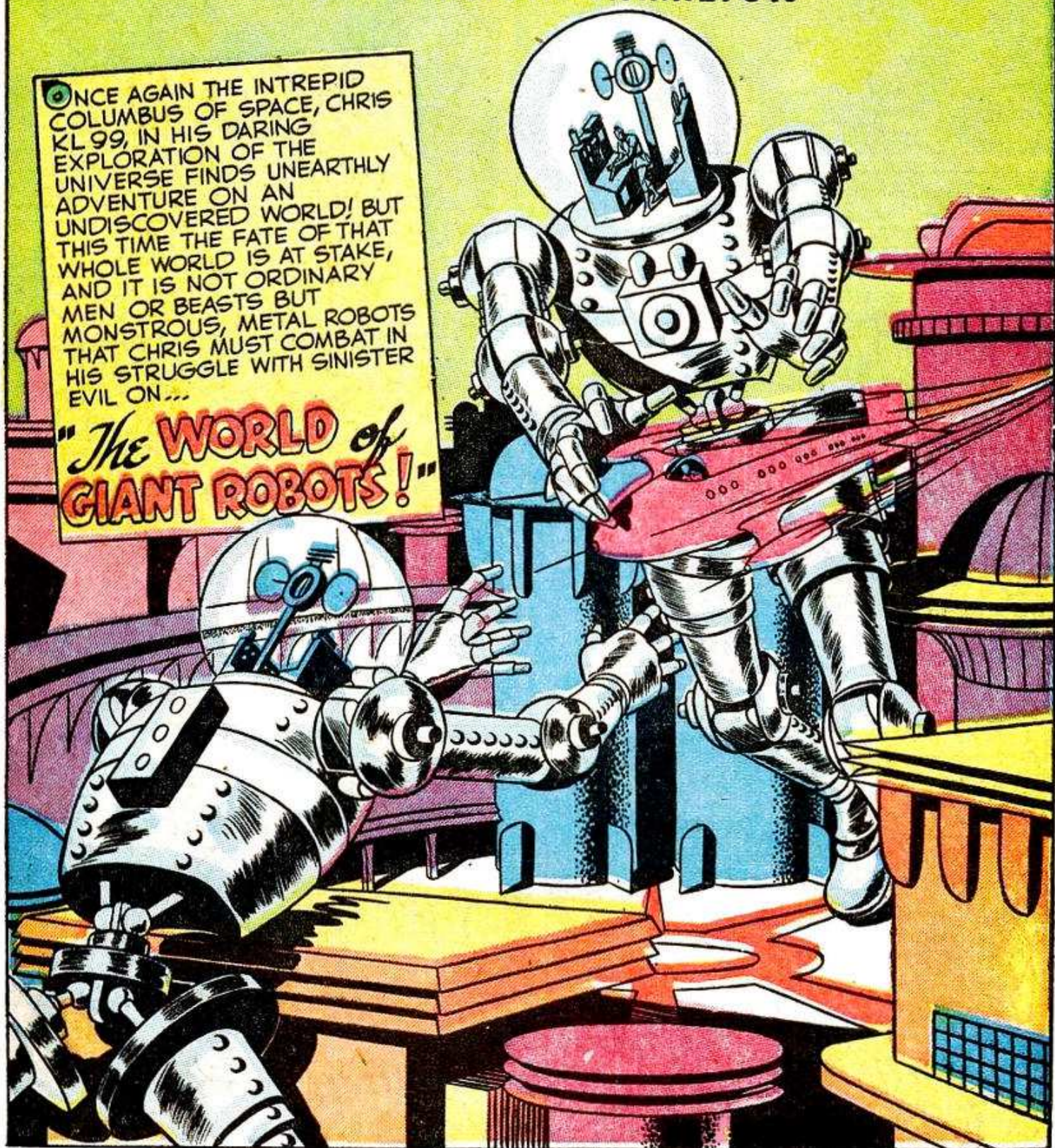


THE ADVENTURES OF *CHRIS KL99*

STORY BY EDMOND HAMILTON

ONCE AGAIN THE INTREPID COLUMBUS OF SPACE, CHRIS KL 99, IN HIS DARING EXPLORATION OF THE UNIVERSE FINDS UNEARTHLY ADVENTURE ON AN UNDISCOVERED WORLD! BUT THIS TIME THE FATE OF THAT WHOLE WORLD IS AT STAKE, AND IT IS NOT ORDINARY MEN OR BEASTS BUT MONSTROUS, METAL ROBOTS THAT CHRIS MUST COMBAT IN HIS STRUGGLE WITH SINISTER EVIL ON...

*"The WORLD of
GIANT ROBOTS!"*



OUT IN THE DEPTHS OF THE STARRY UNIVERSE, CHRIS KL 99, THE COLUMBUS OF THE FUTURE, APPROACHES AN UNCHARTERED SOLAR SYSTEM!

WE'LL MAP THESE WORLDS--THEY'VE NEVER BEEN VISITED BEFORE!

IT'S ANOTHER DISCOVERY WE CAN REPORT TO THE "HALL OF WORLDS" ON EARTH!



HIS STAUNCH COMRADES, HALK, THE RED MARTIAN, AND JERO, THE VENUSIAN, SHARE THE FAMOUS EXPLORER'S ENTHUSIASM...

NOW THAT WE'VE MAPPED THIS FIRST PLANET WITH THE RAY-SCOPES, WE'LL LAND ON IT!

CHRIS, LOOK--THE FORESTS ON THIS PLANET ARE GIANT FLOWERS!



PRESENTLY, AFTER LANDING ON THE WORLD OF HUGE FLOWERS...

IT'S A GIANT VENUS FLY-TRAP, ATTACKING US!

NO WONDER OUR CHAMELEON-PET LOOPY TURNED BLUE WITH FEAR! WE BETTER GET OUT OF HERE!



BUT THE NEXT WORLD IN THIS FARAWAY SOLAR SYSTEM PROVES EVEN STRANGER!

LOOK, THERE ARE PEOPLE HERE!

WE'LL LAND AND TALK TO THEM!



THEY DON'T MOVE--THEY'RE ALL LIKE LIVING STATUES!

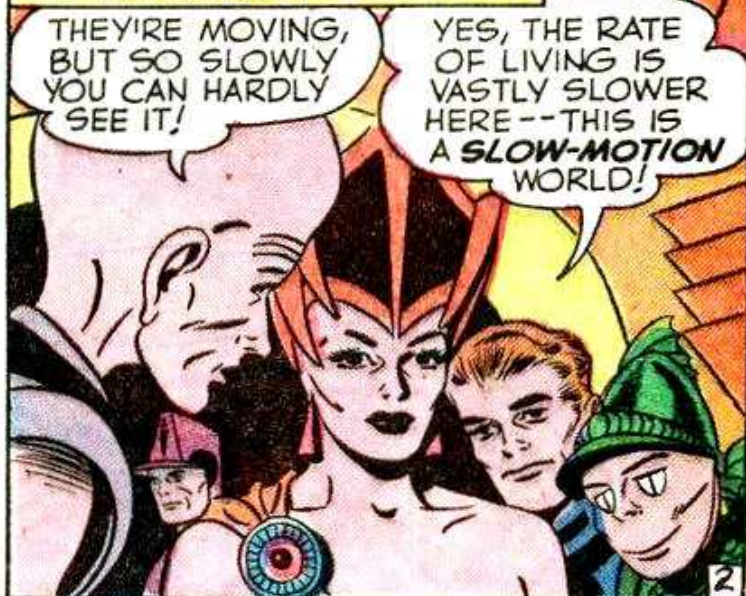
IT'S INCREDIBLE!



BUT SOON, THE MYSTERY IS EXPLAINED...

THEY'RE MOVING, BUT SO SLOWLY YOU CAN HARDLY SEE IT!

YES, THE RATE OF LIVING IS VASTLY SLOWER HERE--THIS IS A SLOW-MOTION WORLD!



PRESENTLY, OUT IN SPACE...

WE'LL EXPLORE THIS LAST WORLD, AND THEN HEAD BACK TO EARTH! BETTER WEAR OUR SPACE-SUITS TILL WE'RE SURE ITS AIR IS BREATHABLE!



SOON, ON A WORLD OF STRANGE MYSTERY AND MENACE...

LOOKS AS THOUGH GREAT EARTHQUAKES AND VOLCANOES HAVE BEEN IN ACTION ON THIS WORLD!

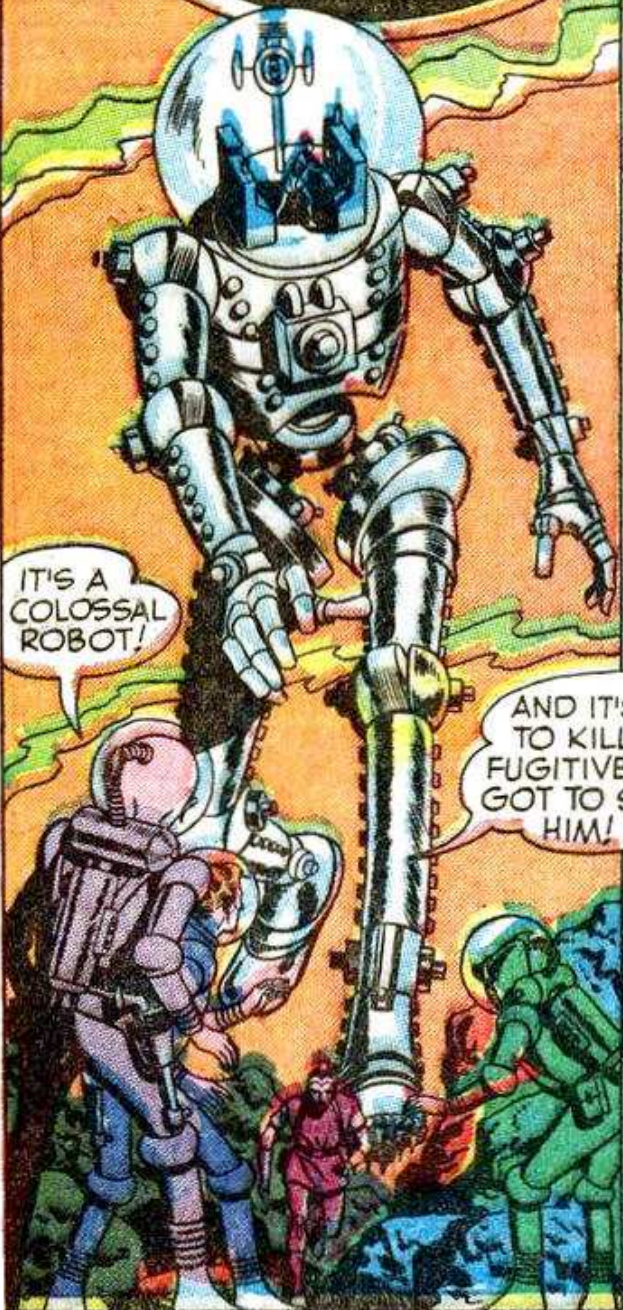
LISTEN, I HEAR ANOTHER QUAKE SHAKING THE GROUND!



THINKING SWIFTLY, CHRIS USES THE EMERGENCY JET-POWER TUBE OF HIS SPACE-SUIT FOR A FAST RESCUE...



IT'S A COLOSSAL ROBOT!



AND IT'S TRYING TO KILL THAT FUGITIVE--WE'VE GOT TO SAVE HIM!

INTO THE FOREST-- THE THING CAN'T FIND US THERE!

MORE OF THOSE METAL GIANTS ARE COMING!



SUDDENLY, A DISTRESSING COMPLICATION...

LOOK, TWO OF THEM ARE CARRYING AWAY OUR SHIP!

WE CAN'T STOP THEM-- THE OTHERS ARE STILL HUNTING FOR US!



SOON, REVIVED BY SUPER-MODERN FIRST-AID...

YOU SAVED MY LIFE! I AM KARATH, ONE OF THE ONLY TWO LIVING PEOPLE ON THIS WORLD!

ONLY TWO PEOPLE? BUT WHO MADE THOSE ROBOTS THAT WERE TRYING TO KILL YOU?



THEY TOOK THE "PIONEER"! NOW WE'RE MAROONED ON THIS WORLD!

MAYBE WE CAN LEARN SOMETHING FROM THIS CHAP ABOUT WHAT'S GOING ON HERE!



I MADE THEM! BUT ZUUR, AN EVIL PLOTTER, SEIZED CONTROL OF THEM AND TURNED THEM AGAINST ME! HE'S THE OTHER MAN ON THIS WORLD!

I DON'T UNDERSTAND! ONLY TWO MORTALS ON THIS PLANET? WHERE DID ALL THE OTHER PEOPLE HERE GO TO?



THEY WENT OUT INTO SPACE IN A FLEET OF ROCKET SHIPS A FEW WEEKS AGO, WHEN WE DISCOVERED THAT CATASTROPHE THREATENED THIS WORLD! I WILL EXPLAIN...



"THIS IS AN ANCIENT, CAVERNOUS WORLD! AND RECENTLY OUR SCIENTISTS PREDICTED THAT GEOLOGICAL CONVULSIONS WERE COMING!"

SOME OF THE CAVERNS UNDER OUR WORLD ARE COLLAPSING -- IT WILL CAUSE GREAT QUAKE AND VOLCANIC ERUPTIONS THAT MAY DESTROY US ALL!

THEN EVERYONE MUST GO OUT IN SPACE-SHIPS INTO SPACE, UNTIL THE CONVULSIONS ARE OVER!



"MY SCIENTIFIC SPECIALTY HAD BEEN MECHANICAL ROBOTS, AND NOW I MEANT TO USE MY KNOWLEDGE!"

BUT OUR CITY HERE WILL BE DESTROYED, WHEN WE COME BACK!

NO, WE'LL MAKE MANY GIANT ROBOTS LIKE THIS ONE! I CAN CONTROL THEM, AND I'LL STAY HERE AND USE THE ROBOTS TO REPAIR ALL DAMAGE BEFORE YOU RETURN!

"SO, AFTER THE ROBOTS WERE MADE, ALL MY PEOPLE WENT OUT IN SPACE IN A GREAT FLEET OF SHIPS, TO WAIT FOR THE CATASTROPHE TO PASS!"

"BUT ONE OTHER MAN STAYED, THOUGH I DID NOT SUSPECT IT-- THE EVIL ZUUR WHO REMAINED HIDDEN FOR A SINISTER PURPOSE!"

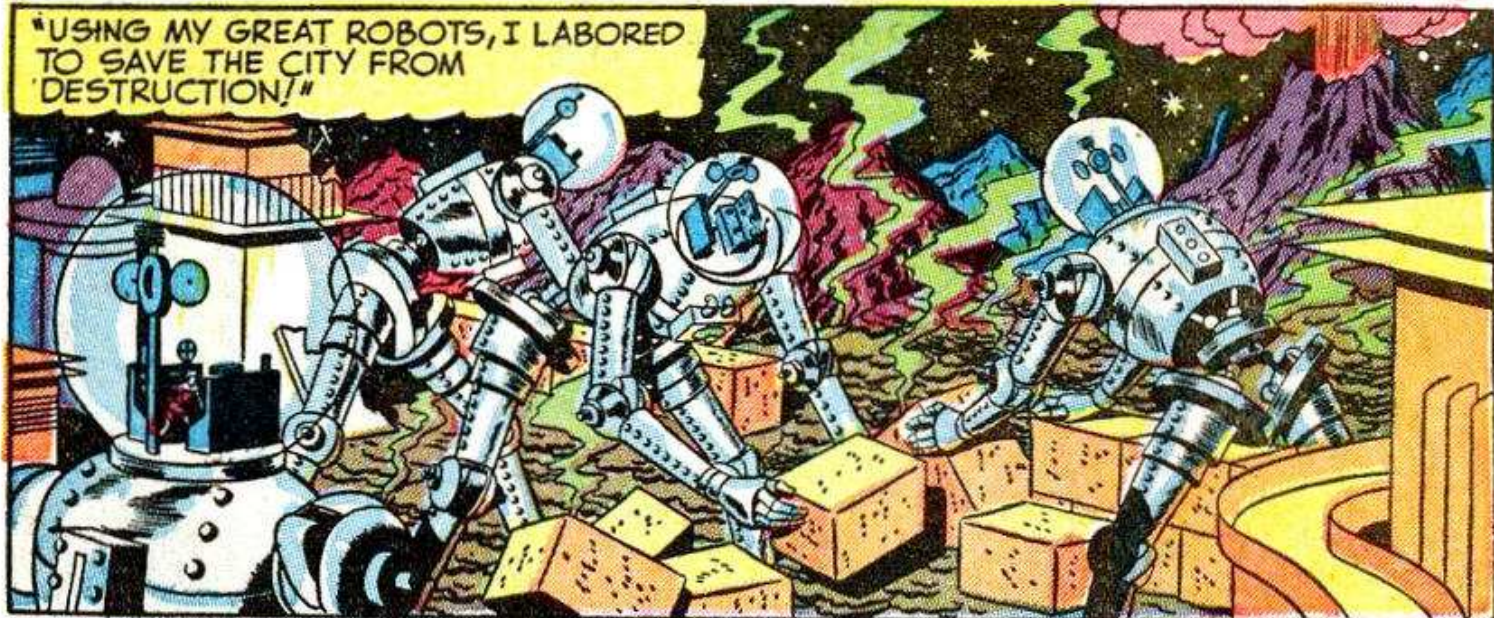
I'LL STAY SAFELY HIDDEN UNTIL IT'S TIME TO ACT!

"THINKING I WAS ALONE ON THIS WORLD, I PREPARED FOR THE CATASTROPHE! I COULD CONTROL THE GIANT ROBOTS FROM A REMOTE-CONTROL BOARD IN THE 'HEAD' OF ONE ROBOT."

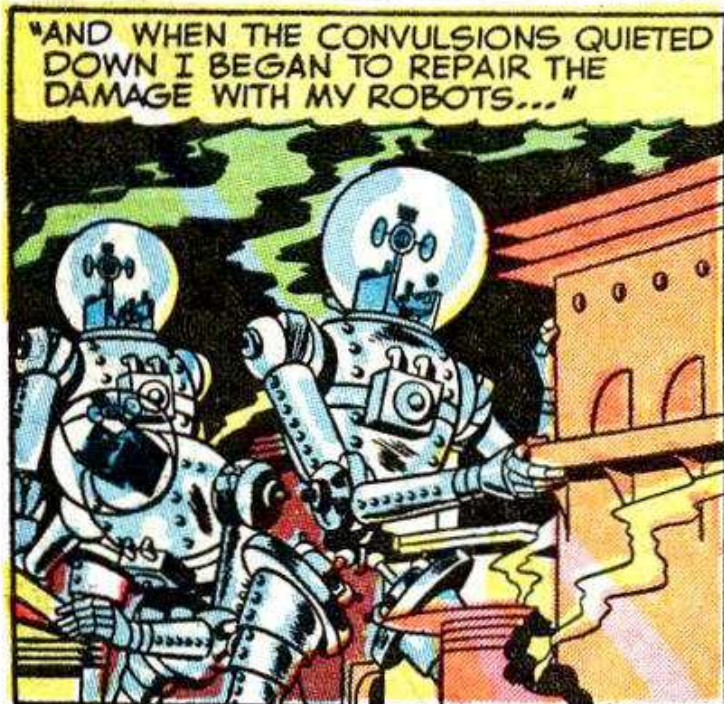
THE SEISMOGRAPHS SHOW GREAT QUAKES IN THE INTERIOR CAVERNS-- THE CATASTROPHE IS AT HAND!

"THEN CAME THE MIGHTY CONVULSION!"

"USING MY GREAT ROBOTS, I LABORED TO SAVE THE CITY FROM DESTRUCTION!"



"AND WHEN THE CONVULSIONS QUIETED DOWN I BEGAN TO REPAIR THE DAMAGE WITH MY ROBOTS..."



"BUT THEN, WHEN ALL WAS REPAIRED, THE PLOTTER ZUUR SNEAKED OUT FROM HIS SAFE HIDING-PLACE!"

IN A FEW DAYS, THE SPACE-SHIPS WILL RETURN WITH ALL MY PEOPLE!

AND WITH THAT MASTER-ROBOT, I CAN CONTROL ALL THE OTHER ROBOTS!



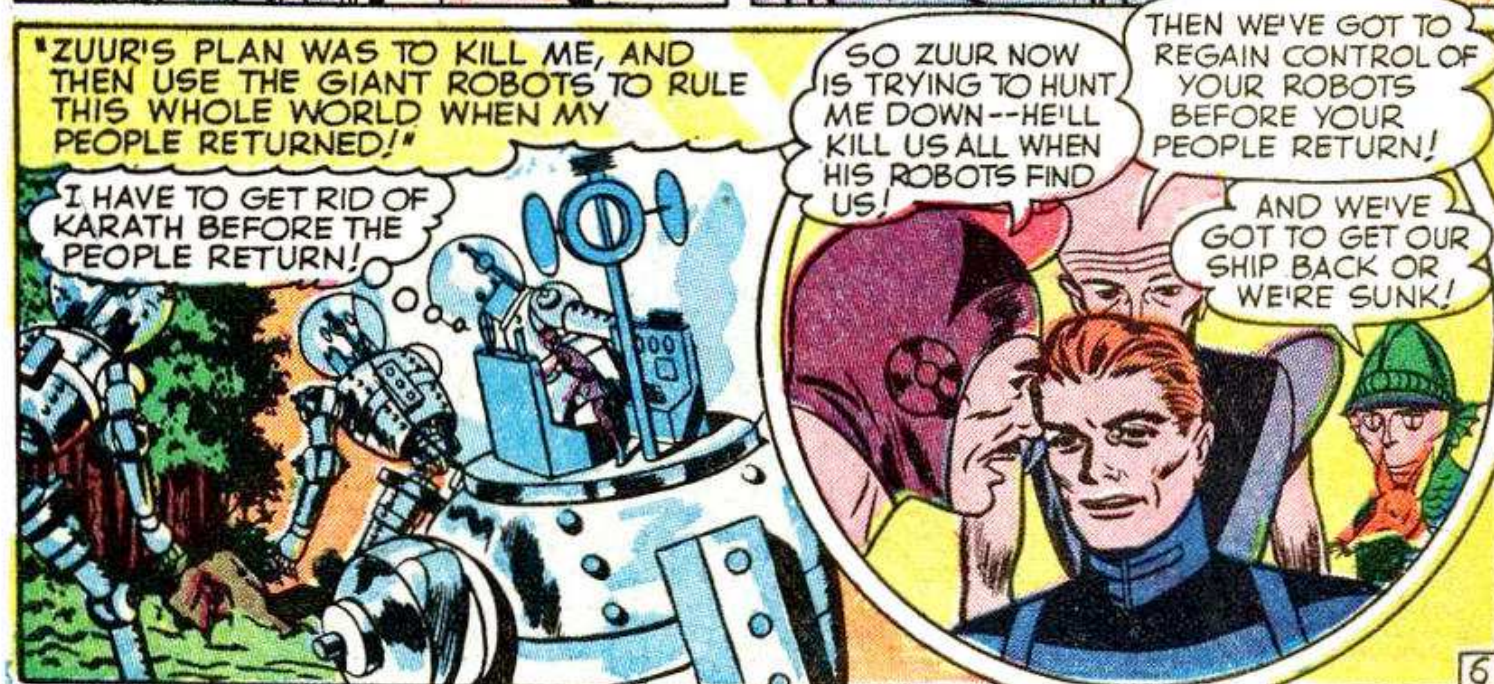
"ZUUR'S PLAN WAS TO KILL ME, AND THEN USE THE GIANT ROBOTS TO RULE THIS WHOLE WORLD WHEN MY PEOPLE RETURNED!"

I HAVE TO GET RID OF KARATH BEFORE THE PEOPLE RETURN!

SO ZUUR NOW IS TRYING TO HUNT ME DOWN--HE'LL KILL US ALL WHEN HIS ROBOTS FIND US!

THEN WE'VE GOT TO REGAIN CONTROL OF YOUR ROBOTS BEFORE YOUR PEOPLE RETURN!

AND WE'VE GOT TO GET OUR SHIP BACK OR WE'RE SUNK!



YOUR SHIP, AND ZUUR'S CONTROL-ROBOT, ARE AT THE CITY! BUT THE ROBOTS WILL KILL US IF WE GO OUT IN THE OPEN!

YOU SAID THERE ARE CAVERNS UNDER ALL THIS WORLD'S SURFACE -- COULD WE GO THAT WAY?

IT MIGHT BE DONE! THAT CREVICE MUST LEAD DOWN TO THE CAVERNS!

I HATE UNDERGROUND PLACES -- I'D RATHER TAKE MY CHANCES IN THE OPEN!

PRESENTLY, THE GROUP ADVANCES INTO A GLOOMY WORLD OF STRANGE UNDERGROUND CAVERNS AND GROTESQUE FUNGUS FORESTS...

LOOK, LOOPY IS SCARED BLUE AGAIN!

WE MAY LOSE OUR WAY IN THE CAVERNS!

I'VE NEVER LOST MY WAY YET!

SOON...

THIS RIVER MUST BE THE ONE THAT EMERGES TO THE SURFACE NEAR THE CITY!

THEN WE'LL GO DOWN ITS CURRENT-- WE CAN MAKE A RAFT FROM FUNGUS-TRUNKS!

LATER...

THOSE STREAKS OF LIGHT-- THEY COME FROM RADIOACTIVE MINERALS!

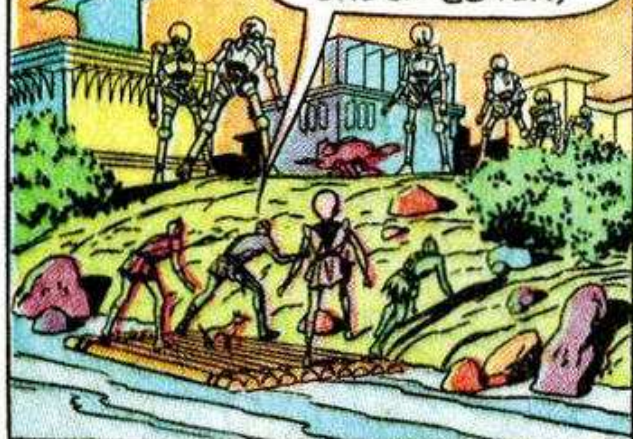
LOOK OUT-- THAT BEAST IS HUNGRY!

HOW'S THIS FOR AN APPETIZER?

I'LL BE GLAD IF WE EVER SEE THE SKY AGAIN -- I'M A SPACEMAN, NOT A MOLE!

SOON, BORNE BY THE SWIFT CURRENT BACK UP TO THE SURFACE...

QUICK, BEFORE THEY SEE US! GET UNDER COVER!



THE ONLY WAY WE CAN FIGHT ZUUR IS TO CAPTURE SOME OF THE ROBOTS AND USE THEM AGAINST HIM!

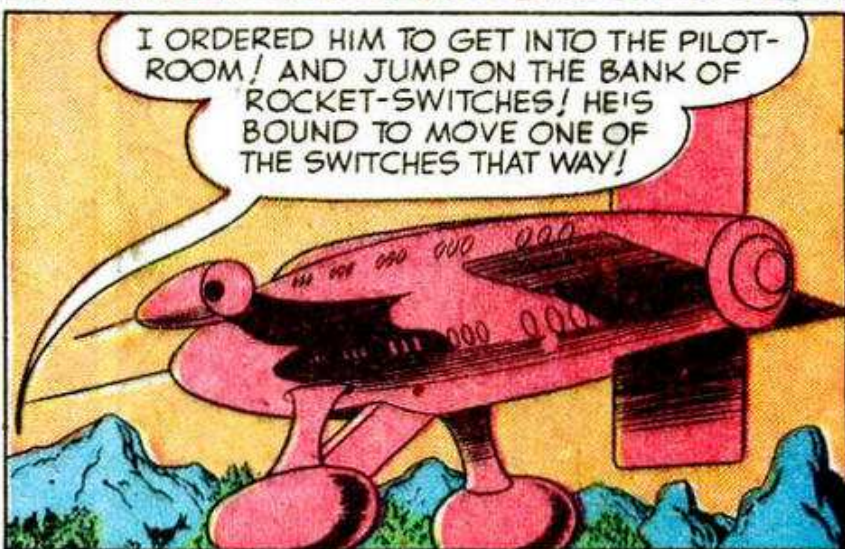
TO SHOW OURSELVES IS DEATH -- THEY'RE ON WATCH!



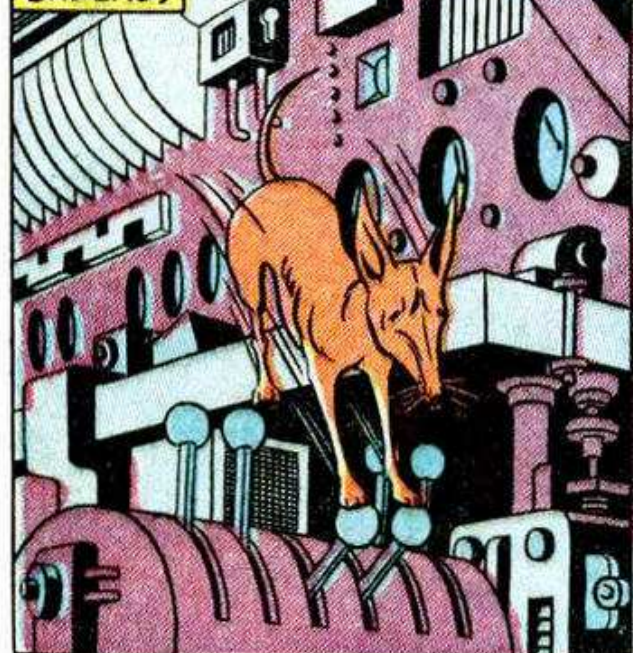
HM, MAYBE WE CAN DISTRACT THEM A MOMENT! OUR PET LOOPY IS PRETTY INTELLIGENT-- AND THE DOOR OF OUR SHIP IS OPEN! LOOPY, LISTEN TO MY ORDERS!



I ORDERED HIM TO GET INTO THE PILOT-ROOM! AND JUMP ON THE BANK OF ROCKET-SWITCHES! HE'S BOUND TO MOVE ONE OF THE SWITCHES THAT WAY!

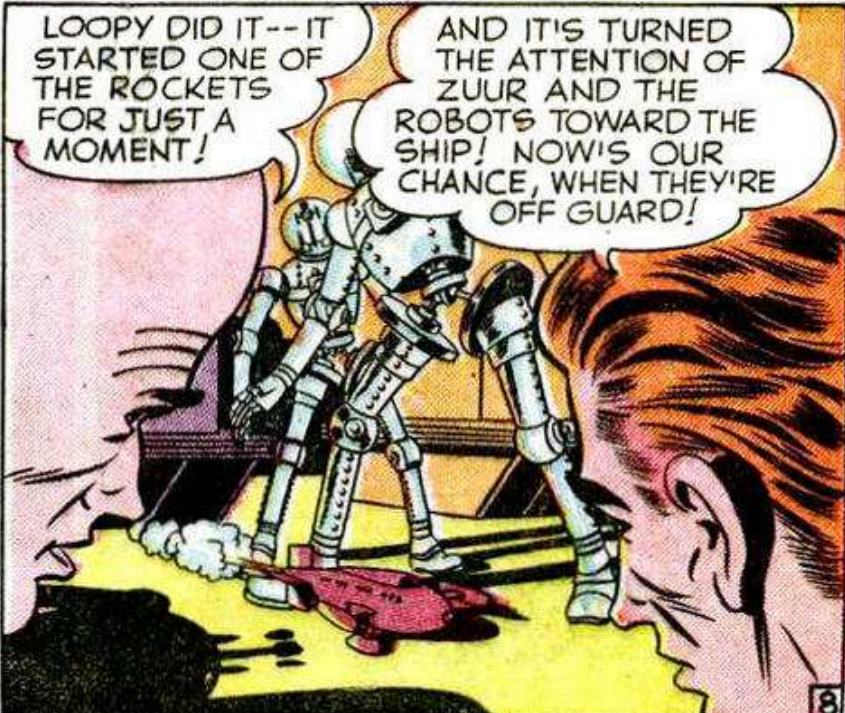


INSIDE THE "PIONEER", LOOPY OBEYS ORDERS!



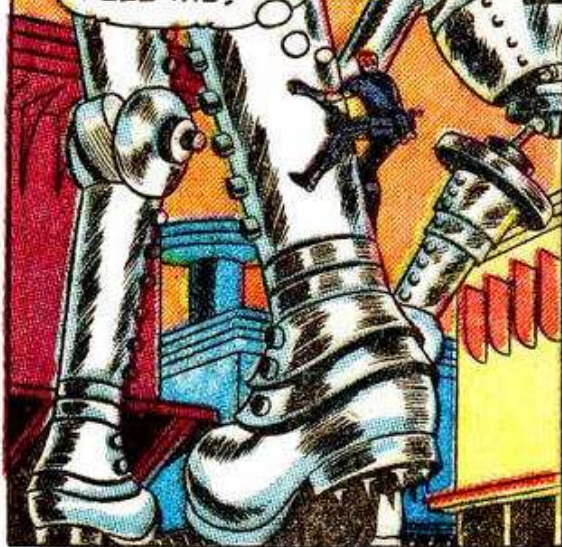
LOOPY DID IT--IT STARTED ONE OF THE ROCKETS FOR JUST A MOMENT!

AND IT'S TURNED THE ATTENTION OF ZUUR AND THE ROBOTS TOWARD THE SHIP! NOW'S OUR CHANCE, WHEN THEY'RE OFF GUARD!



SWIFTLY, CHRIS RACES TOWARD THE GREAT ROBOTS WHILE ZUUR IS OFF GUARD...

IT'S ONLY A MECHANICAL MONSTER, AND CAN'T FEEL ME!



PRESENTLY, ASCENDING INTO THE "HEAD" OF THE ROBOT...

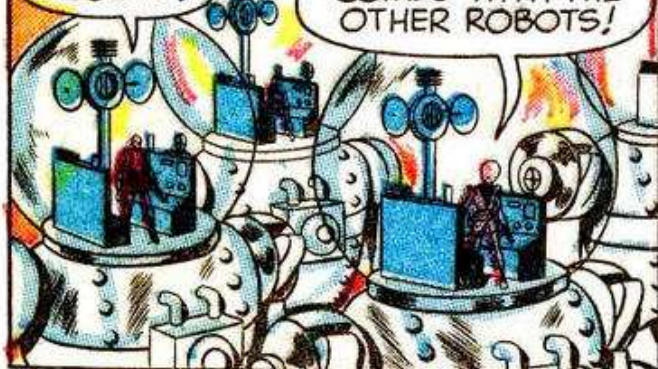
THIS DESTROYS ZUUR'S REMOTE CONTROL OF THIS ROBOT -- NOW I CAN CONTROL IT!



HALK AND JERO AND KARATH HAVE DONE THE SAME...

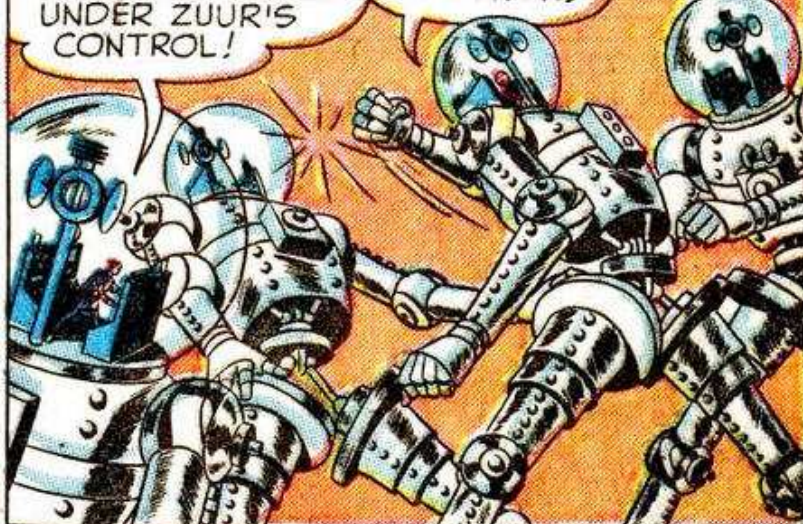
NOW WE FOUR CONTROL FOUR ROBOTS!

ZUUR HAS SEEN US -- HERE HE COMES WITH THE OTHER ROBOTS!



LOOK OUT--THEY OUTNUMBER US! AND THEY'RE ALL UNDER ZUUR'S CONTROL!

WHAT A REACH I'VE GOT NOW! AND WHAT A PUNCH!



MIGHTY MECHANICAL MONSTERS CLASH IN TITANIC COMBAT!

I'VE GOT TO GET ZUUR -- HE'S THE ONE WHO CONTROLS THE OTHER MINDLESS ROBOTS!

