

## REPORT FROM MOON TO MARS EXPEDITION "1":

UPON REACHING RED PLANET, MADE DISCOVERY OF STARTLING NATURE ... INITIAL STUDY OF OBJECT NOW UNDER WAY; HAVE MEASURED ITS DIMENSIONS; ANALYZED ITS SUBSTANCE; PRESENT OBJECTIVE IS TO FIND OUT THE SECRET OF

# THE FACE ON MARS



WITH THE AID OF VACUUM GLOVES AND SHOES, KOSKI, BRENNAN, LAKE AND I, BEN FISHER, MADE THE ASCENT TO THE EYES OF THAT GIANT MARTIAN FACE!

WELL, WE MADE THE CLIMB ... NOW WHAT FISHER?

OUR JOB WITH THE MARS EXPEDITION IS EXPLORATION, ISN'T IT?



I ADMIT IT'S A BIG SURPRISE TO FIND THE STATUE OF A MAN ON ANOTHER WORLD BESIDES EARTH! BUT, WHY THIS CLIMB?

WHAT YOU SHOULD HAVE ASKED IS, WHY ARE THE EYES OF THIS STATUE-- HOLLOW?-- NOW LET'S FIND OUT WHY!



THEN I TOOK A STEP FORWARD--A LONG ONE!



I COULDN'T JUDGE THE DISTANCE THAT I FELL! IT SEEMED LIKE A THOUSAND MILES--IT COULD HAVE BEEN A FEW FEET! AT ANY RATE, I LANDED SAFELY-- IN A LUSH, GREEN, SUNLIT COUNTRYSIDE!



AND THERE WAS AIR--COOL, RICH AND BREATHABLE--NOT THE THIN, STRANGLING AIR OF THE MARTIAN DESERT. IT WAS A PLEASURE TO REMOVE MY OXYGEN MASK!



WELL, I DON'T KNOW WHERE I AM--OR HOW I GOT HERE. BUT IT DOESN'T SEEM UN-FRIENDLY!

"BEAUTIFUL" WAS REALLY THE WORD FOR IT! THE PLACE WAS A PARADISE! I WAS EVEN MORE ASTOUNDED WHEN I SAW THE CITY-- AND THE PEOPLE!



GIANTS! MAGNIFICENT GIANTS!-- WITH A CIVILIZATION BEFITTING THEIR STATURE!

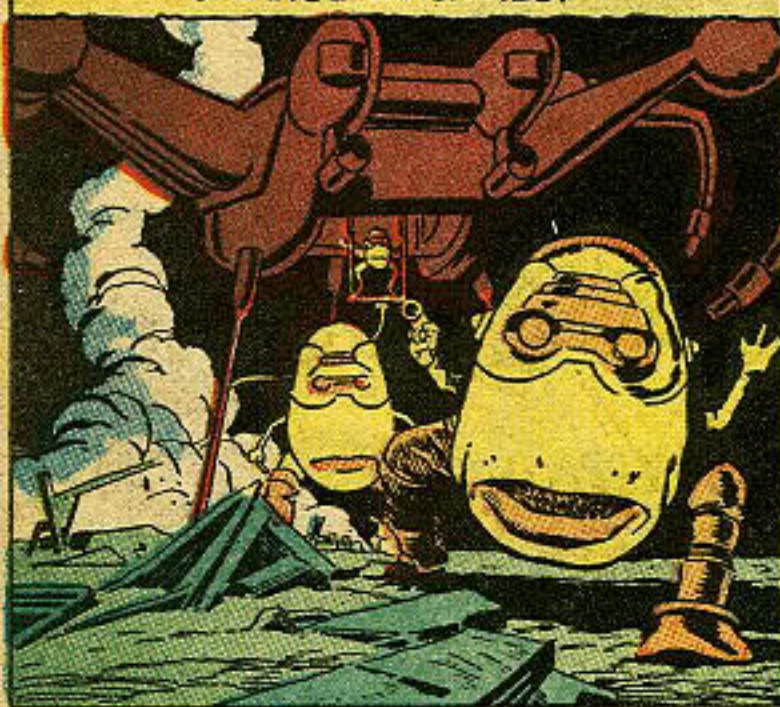
**T**HEN, I SAW THE OTHERS-- SCREAMING INTO VIEW IN SHIPS OF A STRANGE, REPELLENT FORM!



**I**N SECONDS, ALL THE WONDERS I HAD WITNESSED ERUPTED IN SEARING FLAME!



**I** COULDN'T FIGURE OUT HOW I WAS LEFT UNHURT IN THAT TERRIBLE HOLOCAUST! BUT THAT QUESTION FLED MY THOUGHTS WHEN I SAW WHAT CAME OUT OF THOSE STRANGE MACHINES!



**I** REMEMBER SHOUTING MY HATRED AND EMPTYING MY PISTOL AT THEM!



**T**HOSE THINGS ACTED AS IF THEY DIDN'T SEE ME. THEY PASSED ME BY-- LOOKED THE PLACE OVER AND TOOK OFF! I WAS LEFT ALONE IN A SMASHED CITY!



**A**LTHOUGH I COULDN'T UNDERSTAND HOW I'D GOTTEN THERE, I SEEMED TO KNOW WHAT WAS GOING ON. IT WAS LIKE THE FACTS WERE BEING STUFFED IN MY BRAIN AND I WAS LIVING THEM!



**I** HAD NO SENSE OF TIME THERE--YET I KNEW THAT TIME HAD PASSED--THAT I WAS COVERING YEARS IN A MATTER OF MINUTES. THAT THE MARTIANS HAD LOST THE WAR--AND THE LAST HANDFUL WERE GATHERED IN AN UNDERGROUND REFUGE!

THE MARTIANS ARE DOWN THERE! I CAN REACH THEM BY CRAWLING THROUGH THIS VENTILATION TUBE!



**T**HEY WERE GATHERED IN A CHAMBER BEFORE A CHART SHOWING THE PLANETS OF THE SOLAR SYSTEM! A MAN WAS POINTING TO A LARGE WORLD--THE HOME OF THE ENEMY!

HE'S POINTING TO A PLANET BETWEEN MARS AND JUPITER! BUT BUT THERE ISN'T ANY SUCH WORLD!



**Y**ET, SOMETHING IN MY MIND TOLD ME THAT THE PLANET EXISTED--AND IT WAS THE MARTIAN'S INTENTION TO DESTROY IT! THE MAN AT THE CHART WAS GOING TO PILOT THE BOMB!



**T**HEN HE WAS GONE--LANCING INTO SPACE... AND, SOMEHOW, I KNEW HE WOULD BE SUCCESSFUL. HE WOULD BLOW THE ENEMY AND HIMSELF INTO ETERNITY!

THE MARTIANS WILL COME OUT OF HIDING, NOW. BUT IT WILL BE TOO LATE FOR THEM, TOO! THE WAR AND ITS WEAPONS HAVE AFFECTED THEIR ATMOSPHERE--



**I** FELT MYSELF SUFFOCATING--BLACKING OUT--FALLING--FALLING--FALLING--

THE AIR--IT--IT'S THIN--RAW--HARD TO BREATH--I--I CAN'T--



THE NEXT THING I KNEW, SOMEONE WAS FORCING AN OXYGEN MASK ON MY FACE!

HE'S COMING TO! IT'S A WONDER HE'S ALIVE AT ALL!



IT WAS KOSKI BRENNAN AND LAKE! HOURS LATER WE WERE STILL REVIEWING MY RESCUE--AND MY STRANGE EXPERIENCE!

WELL, IT'S A LOT MORE COMFORTABLE ON THE ROCKET THAN THE MARTIAN DESERT!

FEEL BETTER NOW, PAL?

YOU SAY YOU FOUND ME ON THE GROUND INSIDE THE HOLLOW STATUE?



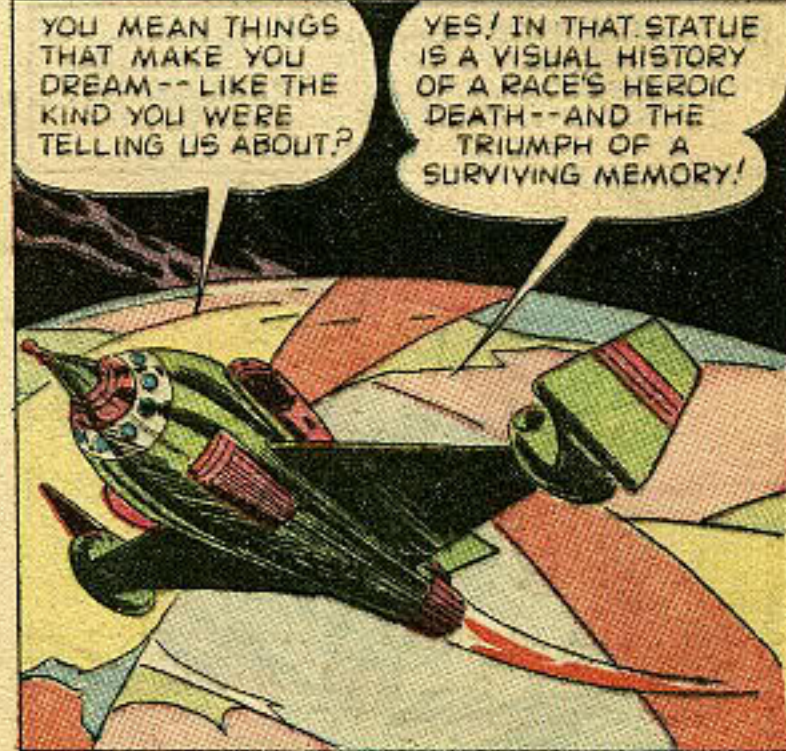
HOW YOU SURVIVED THAT FALL AND THE LOSS OF YOUR MASK IS BEYOND ME!

THAT STATUE'S GOT CONTRIVANCES WE CAN'T SEE IN THE DARK--GADGETS THAT WORK WONDERS ON THE BODY AND THE MIND!



YOU MEAN THINGS THAT MAKE YOU DREAM--LIKE THE KIND YOU WERE TELLING US ABOUT?

YES! IN THAT STATUE IS A VISUAL HISTORY OF A RACE'S HEROIC DEATH--AND THE TRIUMPH OF A SURVIVING MEMORY!



LATER, DURING OUR EXPLORATORY FLIGHT TO JUPITER, WE PASSED THE FLOATING DEBRIS OF THE ASTEROID BELT WHERE WE HAD TO MAKE REPAIRS!

THERE'S A THEORY THAT THESE ASTEROIDS ARE PIECES OF A PLANET THAT BLEW UP BETWEEN MARS AND JUPITER!

IT MUST HAVE BEEN THE HOME OF MONSTERS--TO HAVE SUFFERED SUCH A FATE!



I DIDN'T EXPLAIN IT ALL TO BRENNAN! HE AND ALL MANKIND WOULD LEARN IT, SOMEDAY--FROM THE FACE ON MARS!