

THE AVENGERS

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BEHOLD...
THE
VISION!

RAIN FALLS ON THE PARCHED CITY
...A RAIN THAT SENDS ALL SCURRY-
ING FOR SHELTER...



ALL SAVE ONE, WHO STALKS
ALONE THE CONCRETE CANYONS,
HEEDLESS OF THE TORRENTIAL
DOWNPOUR...

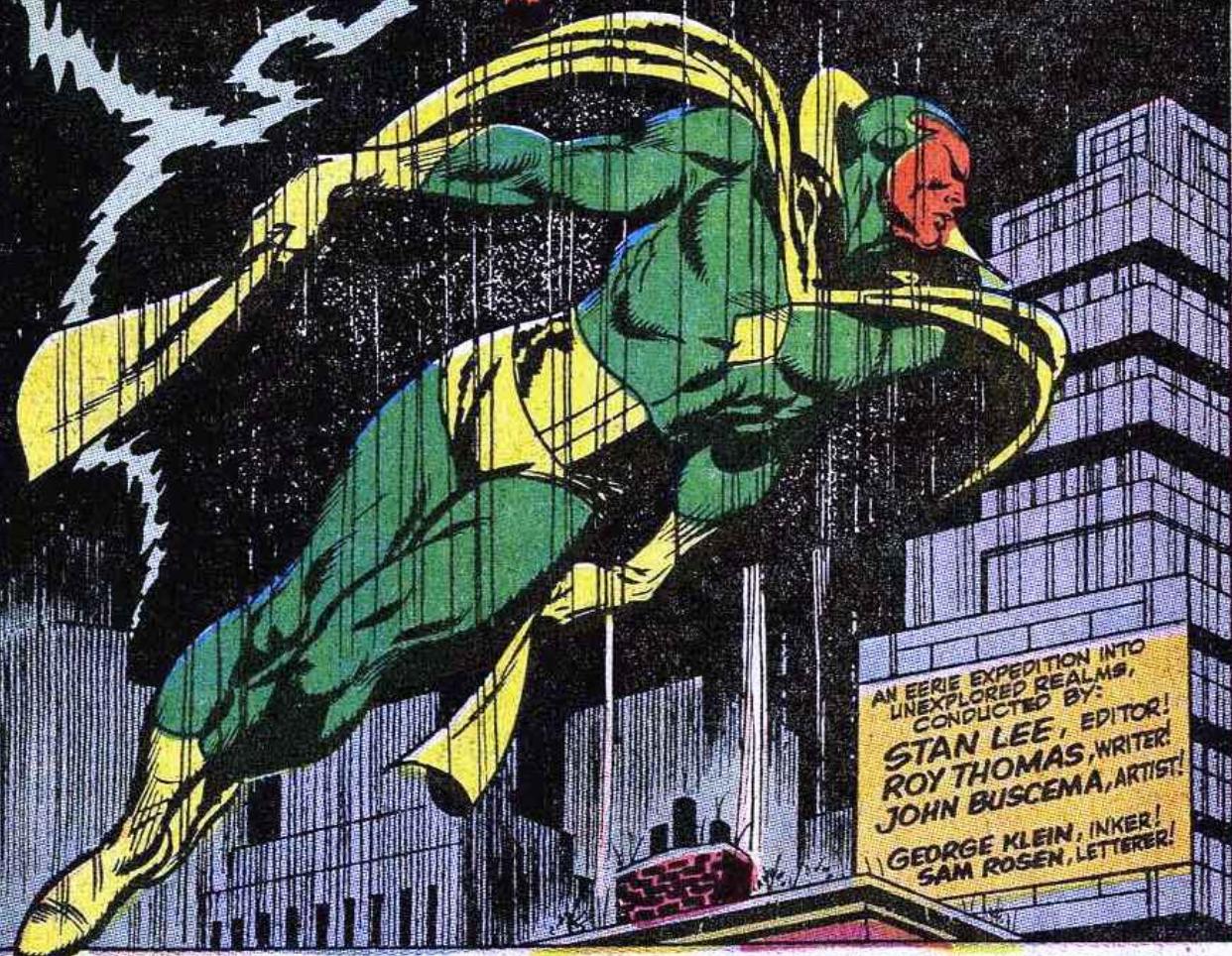


...BECAUSE IT DOES NOT TOUCH
HIM....



THEN, SILENTLY, EFFORTLESSLY
...LIKE SOME GREAT, VENGEFUL
BIRD OF PREY...HE SWOOPS
INTO THE MOONLESS, CLOUD-
DRAPE SKY...TOWARDS A
TOWERING STRUCTURE NEARBY...

BEHOLD...THE **VISION!**

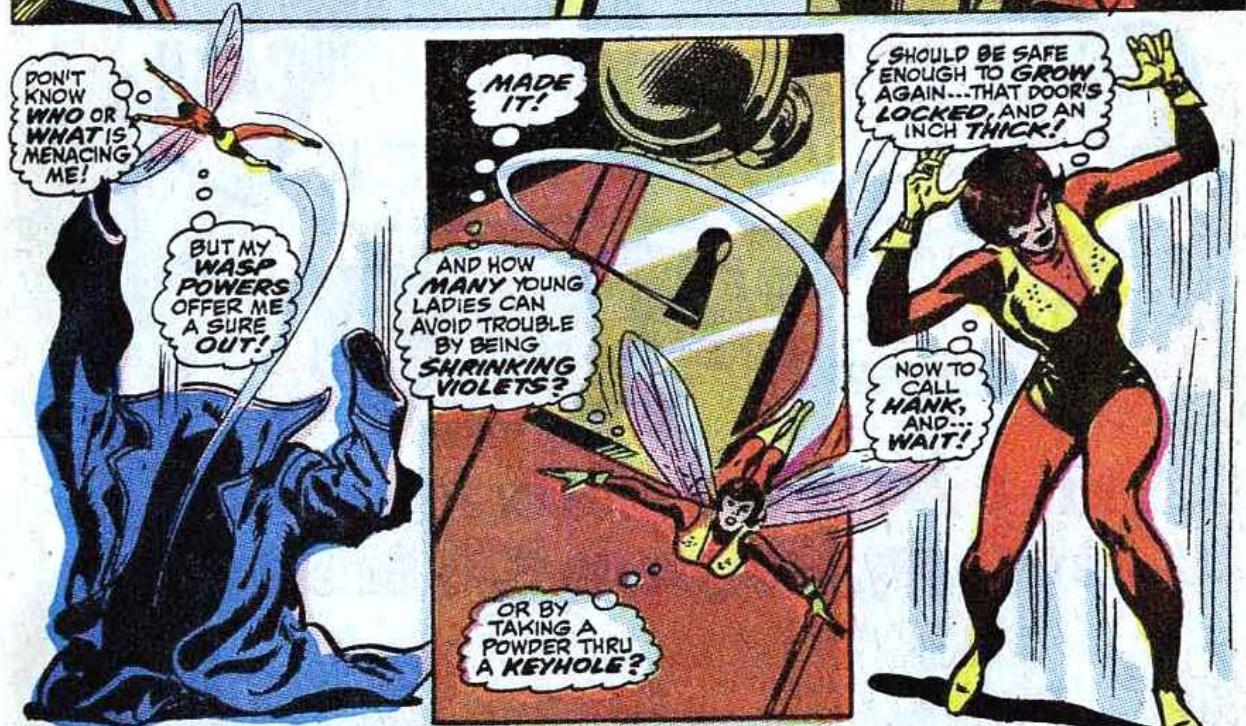


AN EERIE EXPEDITION INTO
UNEXPLORED REALMS,
CONDUCTED BY:
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THE AVENGERS is published by VISTA PUBLICATIONS, INC. OFFICE OF PUBLICATION: 625 MADISON AVENUE, NEW YORK, N. Y. 10022. SECOND CLASS POSTAGE PAID AT NEW YORK, N. Y. and at additional mailing offices. Published monthly. Copyright ©1968 by Vista Publications Inc. Marvel Comics Group, all rights reserved, 625 Madison Avenue, New York, N. Y. 10022. Vol. 1, No. 57, October, 1968 issue. Price 12¢ per copy. No similarity between any of the names, characters, persons and/or institutions in this magazine with those of any living or dead person or institution is intended, and any such similarity which may exist is purely coincidental. Printed in the U.S.A. by World Color Press, Inc., Sparta, Illinois 62286. Subscription rate \$1.75 and \$2.25 Canada for 12 issues including postage. Foreign subscriptions \$3.25.





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NEXT, AS JAN INSTINCTIVELY TURNS TO FLEE...

DO WHAT YOU WILL, YOU WHO ARE CALLED THE WASP!

YOU CANNOT ESCAPE THE SEARING GAZE OF MY THERMOSCOPIC EYES!

THAT HEAT... IT'S UN-BEARABLE...!

OR SOON SHALL BE... WHEN I INCREASE ITS UNIMAGINABLE POWER!

BUT THEN... WITHOUT WARNING...

AAAARRHH!

THE PAIN-- INSIDE MY HEAD! CAN'T STAND IT--!

A MOMENT LATER, ON THE RAIN-DRENCHED STREETS BELOW...

THAT SIGNAL...

ACTIVATING THE TRANSCEIVER ON MY BELT...

IT'S JAN!

CAN'T WASTE TIME USING THE ELEVATOR!

GOT TO REACH HER FAST. GOLIATH STYLE!

UH OH! FORGOT THAT
NOT EVERYBODY'S USED
TO SEEING GIANTS
SCALING THEIR WALLS!

BUT, CAN'T WORRY
ABOUT THAT NOW!

WAKE UP,
MATILDA!

IT'S JUST A MIRAGE
...I THINK!

HERE'S JAN'S PENTHOUSE,
ON THE TOP FLOOR! ONLY HOPE
I'M IN TIME!

I AM
LOVER
MAN!

JAN! ARE YOU
ALL RIGHT...?

BUT I'VE GOT
A WINDOW
THAT'LL NEVER
BE THE SAME
AGAIN!

HUH? IS THAT ALL
THE THANKS I GET FOR...

OKAY, JAN BABY... SO YOU'RE
ACTING LIKE A FIRST-RATE FINK!

STILL, YOU'VE GOTTA
GET EVEN SOMEHOW
FOR BEING WALKED
OUT ON!

EVEN IF
YOU WERE
SCARED STIFF
JUST HALF A
MINUTE
AGO!

AND, WHAT MADE HIM
COLLAPSE IN A
HEAP LIKE THAT?

FRANKLY, HE
DOESN'T LOOK
LIKE THE TYPE
TO BE TAKEN
OUT BY YOUR
WASP'S
STINGS!

I'M AS MUCH
IN THE DARK
AS YOU,
HANK!

SO, WHY DON'T
WE GIVE HIM
THE ONCE-
OVER AT
AVENGERS
HQ?

...AFTER YOU
WRITE ME A
CHECK FOR MY
WINDOW,
THAT IS!

THANKS?
FOR SMASH-
ING THAT
EXPENSIVE
GLASS TO
SMITHER-
EENS?

EVEN MY
WOULD-BE
ASSAULTANT
OPENED IT
BY HAND!

LOOK,
LET'S GET
DOWN TO
CASES,
HUUH?

WHO...OR
WHAT...
IS THIS
GUY?

MEANWHILE, IN ANOTHER APARTMENT, SOMEWHERE ON NEW YORK'S **UPPER EAST SIDE**...



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MERELY TWO MEN?
YOU UNDERESTIMATE
YOUR OPPONENT, FOOLS!

A MERE CONCENTRATION
OF WILL POWER... AND
A BATTERING RAM
ITSELF COULD NOT
MOVE ME!

HE JUST FLEXED
HIS MUSCLES
... AND T'CHALLA
AND I WERE
TOSSED OFF
LIKE FLAP-
JACKS...!

MAYBE HE CAN
THROW YOU
TWO AROUND, BOW-
SLINGER, BUT...

UHHH! HE IS
MUCH... MORE
MASSIVE THAN
HE LOOKS!

HAVEN'T YOU
REALIZED YET...
THAT YOU ARE
DEALING WITH
ONE WHO CAN
COMPLETELY
CONTROL HIS
OWN DENSITY?

Y'KNOW, YOU'RE
GONNA BE SORRY
YOU SHOT OFF YOUR
MOUTH, ABOUT
IT.

SO
THAT'S
YOUR
LITTLE
SECRET,
IS IT?

'CAUSE MY
SIZE-CHANGING
ABILITY GIVES ME
SOMETHING
COMPENSATORY
POWERS...

...AS YOU'VE
PROBABLY
NOTICED BY
NOW!

NOW SUPPOSE
YOU CALM DOWN...
AND LET'S REASON
TOGETHER ABOUT
THIS THING!

THERE IS NOTHING
TO REASON ABOUT,
HUMAN...

I WAS SENT
TO DESTROY
YOU... AND
DESTROY
YOU I
MUST! I
MUST!

STRANGE...HE SPEAKS LIKE A MAN...
OR AN ANDROID...IN A TRANCE!

HE TALKS ABOUT!
HAVING TO TRY
TO KILL US...
YET MAKES
NO MOVE!

MAYBE
THAT PUTS
YOUR
MIND AT
EASE,
JUNGLE
MAN...

BROTHER HAWKEYE'S
STILL GONNA SCOOP
UP HIS ARROWS!

IF ONLY...I COULD
REMEMBER...!

YOU'VE GOT TO
REMEMBER, VISION...
SO WE CAN BE
FRIENDS, NOT
DEADLY ENEMIES!

I, TOO,
FEEL WE
SHOULD BE...
ALLIES!

AND YET, A
DARK MIST
CLOUDS MY
MIND, SO
THAT...

I DON'T GET IT! FROM
WHAT YOU TOLD ME, JAN...

...HE COULD WALK OUT
OF THIS ROOM...AT WILL!

WHO
ARE YOU,
FELLA?

HOW'D YOU
GET SUCH
POWERS?

YOU NEED
NOT BELIEVE
ME, ARCHER...

BUT, IN
TRUTH...I
DO NOT
KNOW!

WAIT!
SUDDENLY, I
RECALL ...

...RECALL
THE ONE WHO
CREATED ME...
ORDERED ME
TO DESTROY
YOU!

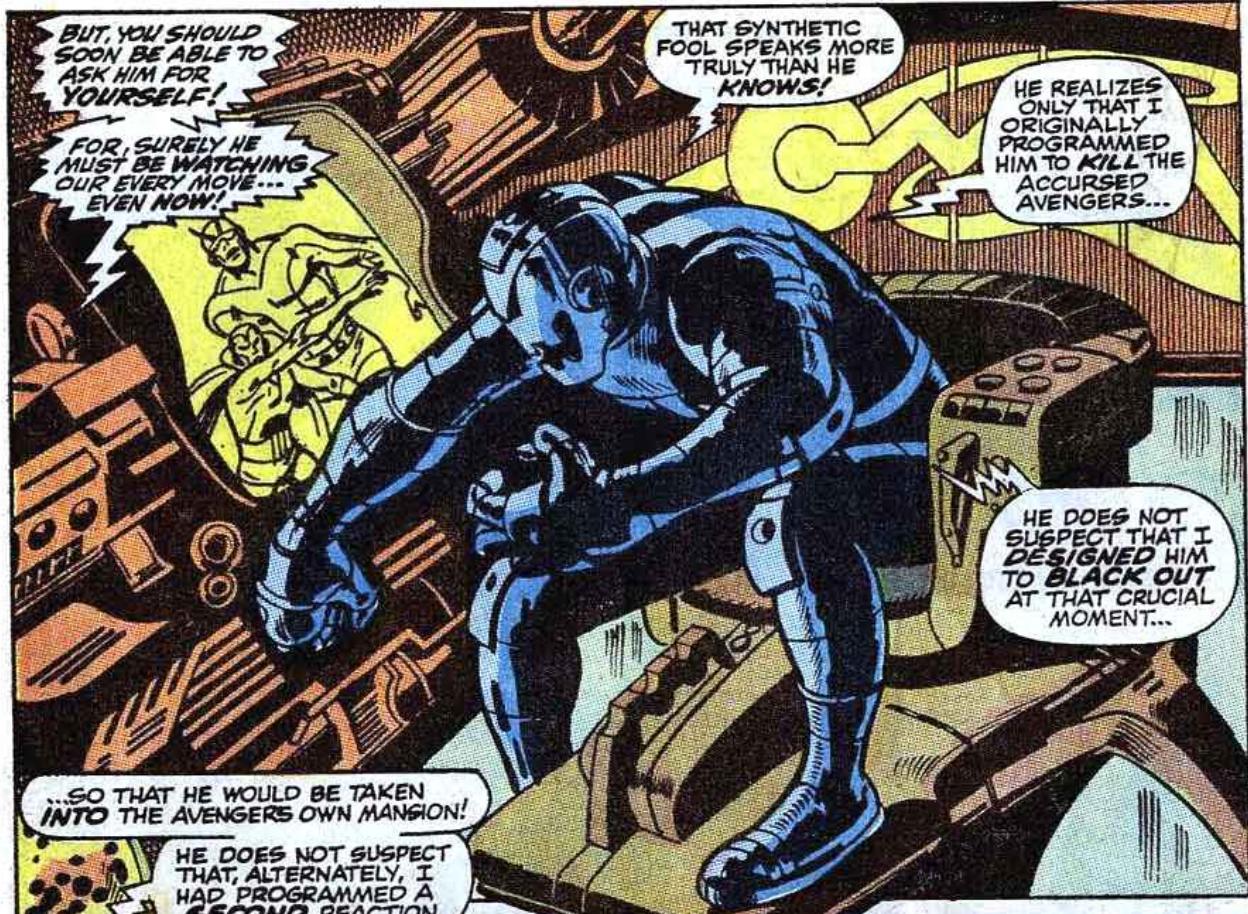
IT WAS
A METAL
BEING...WHO
CALLED HIMSELF
ULTRON-5!

I SEE FROM
YOUR FACES
THAT YOU, ALSO,
HAVE HEARD
THAT NAME
BEFORE!

I DON'T KNOW WHY...
BUT THE MERE REMEMBRANCE
OF IT FILLS ME WITH A
FEELING OF...HATRED!

...IF A CREATURE SUCH
AS I BE ALLOWED TO HAVE
EMOTIONS!





UH OH!
LOOKS LIKE
I TALKED
OUTTA
TURN!

WHAT ELSE IS NEW,
BOW-SLINGER?

SOON AS YOU
TWO ARE OVER,
I'LL SHOOT UP
TO 25 FEET,
AND...

ONE SUDDEN, SINKING
MOMENT LATER... EVEN AS
HANK PYM'S MIGHTY FRAME
LANDS DOZENS OF FEET
BELOW... A HULKING FORM
LOOMS OVER HIM, ITS IN-
HUMAN FACE A MASK OF
LETHAL MENACE...



I DON'T KNOW IF THAT'S
A ROBOT... A SYNTHO-
ZOID... OR WHAT... BUT
IT SURE ISN'T HEADING
MY WAY TO SHAKE
MY HAND!

ULTRON-5 HAS
MORE KINDS OF
ANDROIDS THAN
ANDY WARHOL
HAS SOUP CANS!

WORSE... THAT
FALL SHOOK ME
UP SO BAD...
CAN'T CONCENTRATE
ON CHANGING
SIZE!

MAYBE...
I CAN FAKE
HIM OUT...
GET PAST
HIM...



BUT, FAR MORE
SWIFTLY THAN
GOLIATH COULD
HAVE GUESSED...

THOK!

WITH
ONE BLOW
...HE KNOCKED
EVERY BIT OF
WIND OUT OF
ME...



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FOR THAT, I SHOULD
DESTROY YOU...
REND YOU LIMB
FROM L...

YET, WHY
SHOULD WE
QUARREL...

IF YOU WISH THE
AVENGERS TO BE
SPARED... SO
SHALL IT BE!

THEN, THE VISION HAS
HIS SURPRISING ANSWER...

WHAT
MEAN A
FEW
HUMAN
LIVES TO
ULTRON-
5?

AARRHH!!

...WE,
WHO ARE
BOTH SO FAR
ABOVE THE
GROVELING
HUMAN
RACE?

WHY THIS
SUDDEN
CHANGE OF
HEART,
EVIL ONE?

ULTRON-5
DOES NOT
CHANGE HIS
MIND...

...AND HAS
NOT EVEN AN ARTIFICIAL
HEART, AS YOU DO...!

MY SOLE WEAKNESS IS THE
TWIN ELECTRODES WHICH
STUD THE SIDE OF MY
METALLIC SKULL...

...WHILE YOU
RUN THE PITIFUL
GAMUT OF
EMOTIONS...
INCLUDING THAT
OF TRUST!

BUT, REALIZING
THAT I HAD CREATED
YOU WITH SUCH
GREAT POWERS...

I KNEW I
COULD ONLY
DEFEAT YOU...
BY LOWERING
YOUR GUARD!

AND NOW, DIE,
FOOL... DIE AS
YOU SHOULD HAVE
DIED BEFORE!!

YET, INCREDIBLY...

YOU LIVE!
BUT HOW...

WHAT CANNOT
BE TOUCHED
...CANNOT BE
HARMED!

WHEN I
HURLED YOU
STUNNED--BODILY--
INTO THAT SEETH-
ING ENERGY
VAT!!

I REDUCED
MY DENSITY TO
NEARLY ZERO
AT THE LAST
POSSIBLE
INSTANT!

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BUT NOW, BEFORE YOU RELEASE THE AVENGERS, YOU MUST ANSWER THE QUESTION WHICH BURNS IN MY MIND!

I HAVE HUMAN THOUGHTS... HUMAN MEMORIES!

THAT YOU SHALL NEVER KNOW, WRETCHED ONE... BECAUSE I DO NOT CHOOSE TO TELL YOU!

RATHER, I CHOOSE NOW...

...TO DESTROY Y... WHA...?

YOU RIDICULED ME FOR HAVING EMOTIONS... YET YOU POSSESS THEM NO LESS THAN I!

OR ELSE YOU WOULD NOT HAVE LEAPED AT ME IN YOUR RAGE...

WHY, ULTRON-5? WHO... OR WHAT... AM I???

...TO YOUR OWN LITTER ANNIHILATION!

NO... NO!
AAARRH!

GONE IN ONE SHATTERING INSTANT IS THE MYSTERIOUS, SINISTER THREAT OF ULTRON-5... AND, IN THAT SELFSAME MOMENT...

THE WALLS HAVE STOPPED... IN THE PROVERBIAL NICK!

THEN, THE VISION WAS ON OUR SIDE... AND HE SUCCEEDED! IT HAS TO BE!

MY ROBOT CAPTOR COLLAPSED... LIKE A PUPPET WITH CLIPPED STRINGS!

SOMETHING HAPPENED... BUT WHAT?

NOR IS THE AWESOME ANSWER LONG IN COMING...

...THEN, YOU LEARNED OUR FOE'S WEAKNESS... AND USED IT TO DESTROY HIM?

IT WAS HE WHO TOLD ME OF THE TWIN ELECTRODES ON HIS STEEL-STRONG SKULL!

THEY MIGHT HAVE WITHSTOOD MY ATTACK... BUT NOT THAT EXPLOSION!

LOOK, WASP, AT THE TWISTED REMNANTS OF HIS ONCE-GLEAMING FORM!

ONLY THE EVILLY-SMILING HEAD IS MISSING!

WE CAN ONLY ASSUME THAT IT... AND ITS ELECTRODES... WERE DISINTEGRATED BY THE EXPLOSION...

IF ONLY I'D HAD TIME TO MAKE HIM TELL ME MORE OF MY CREATION... BUT... CAN WE BE SURE HE WAS REALLY DESTROYED?

EPILOGUE:

I met a traveler from
an antique land,
Who said:

...FOR, IF THEY
SOMEHOW REMAINED
INTACT, WE WOULD
ALL BE IN DEADLY
DANGER....!

Two vast and trunkless
legs of stone
Stand in the desert.

Near them, on the sand,
Half sunk, a shattered
visage lies,



Whose frown,
And wrinkled lip, and sneer
of cold command,

Tell that its sculptor well
those passions read
Which yet survive, stamped
on these lifeless things...

The hand that mocked them,
and the heart that fed;
And on the pedestal these
words appear:



"My name is Ozymandias,
King of Kings:
Look on my works, ye
Mighty, and despair!"

Nothing beside remains.
Round the decay
Of that colossal wreck,
Boundless and bare

The lone and level sands
stretch far away.

