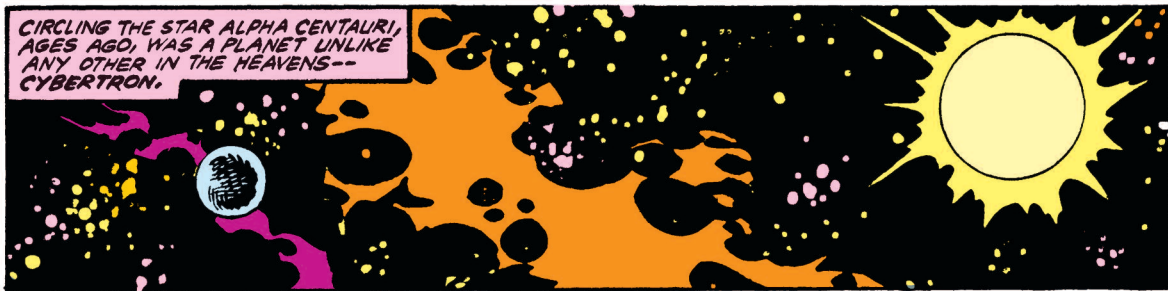


CIRCLING THE STAR ALPHA CENTAURI, AGES AGO, WAS A PLANET UNLIKE ANY OTHER IN THE HEAVENS-- CYBERTRON.

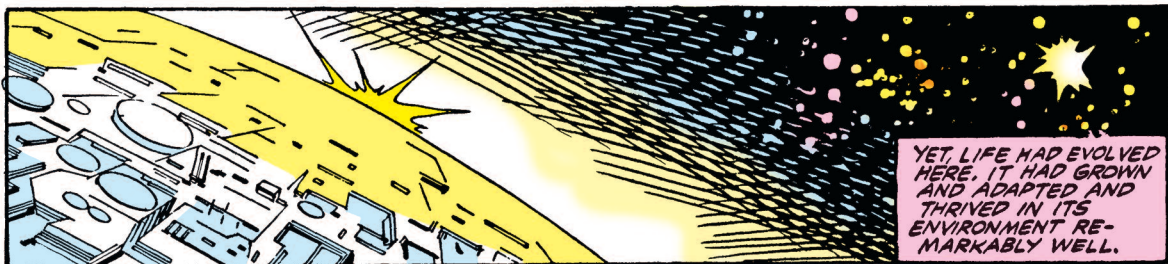


NO ROCK OR SOIL OR SAND CONTRIBUTED TO ITS BIZARRE GEOGRAPHY.

IT'S CONTENT WAS ENTIRELY--MECHANICAL.

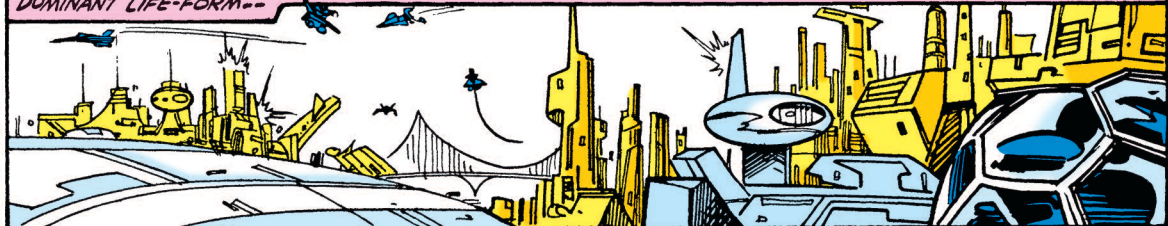


CYBERTRON EXISTED, FROM METALLIC SURFACE TO CORE, AS A VAST SATURN-SIZED MACHINE WORLD... A WORLD WHOSE ORIGINS WERE LOST IN THE DEAD PAST.

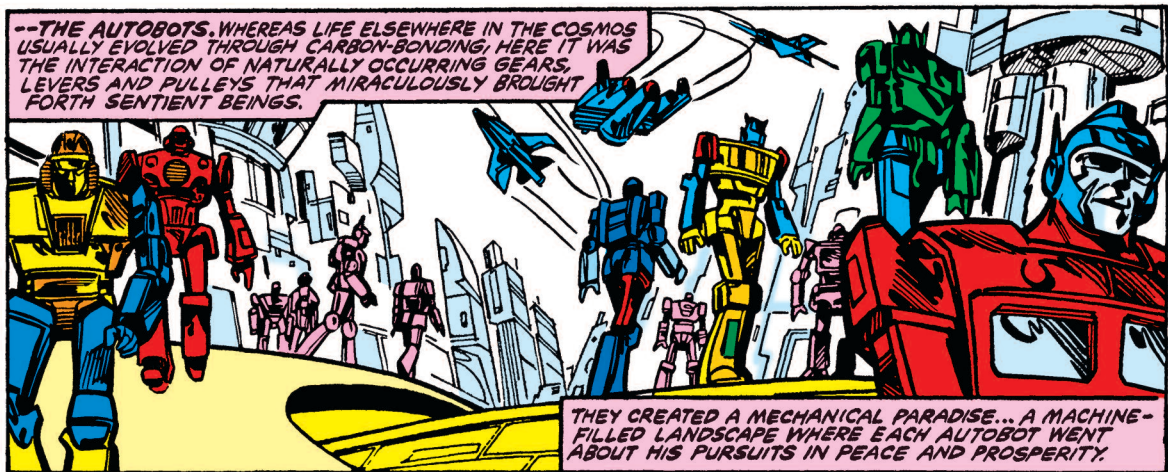


YET, LIFE HAD EVOLVED HERE. IT HAD GROWN AND ADAPTED AND THRIVED IN ITS ENVIRONMENT REMARKABLY WELL.

AND CITIES ROSE ACROSS A BROAD MECHANICAL EXPANSE... CITIES THAT WERE THE PRODUCTS OF CYBERTRON'S DOMINANT LIFE-FORM--



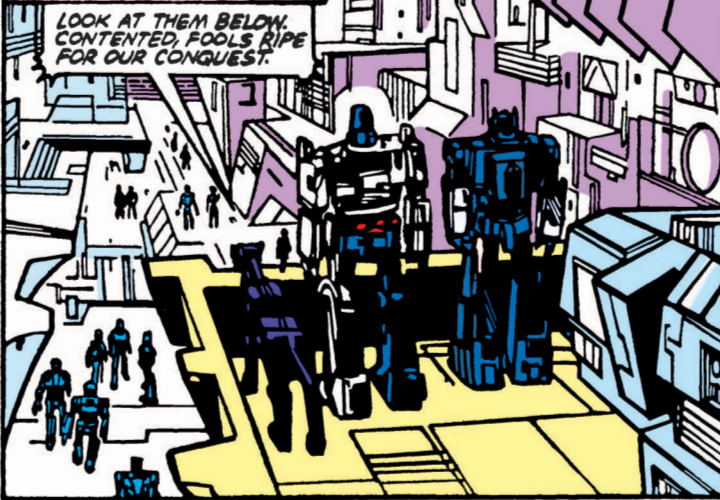
--THE AUTOBOTS. WHEREAS LIFE ELSEWHERE IN THE COSMOS USUALLY EVOLVED THROUGH CARBON-BONDING, HERE IT WAS THE INTERACTION OF NATURALLY OCCURRING GEARS, LEVERS AND PULLEYS THAT MIRACULOUSLY BROUGHT FORTH SENTIENT BEINGS.



THEY CREATED A MECHANICAL PARADISE... A MACHINE-FILLED LANDSCAPE WHERE EACH AUTOBOT WENT ABOUT HIS PURSUITS IN PEACE AND PROSPERITY.

BUT EVERY PARADISE HAS ITS SERPENT... AND ON THIS WORLD IT WAS MEGATRON, COMMANDER OF THOSE WHO CALLED THEMSELVES-THE DECEPTICONS.

LOOK AT THEM BELOW, CONTENTED, FOOLS RIPE FOR OUR CONQUEST.

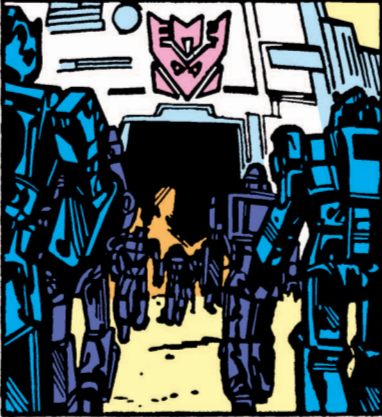


INDEED, RAVAGE. WE HAVE LIVED PEACEFULLY WITH THE AUTOBOTS FOR EONS, SLOWLY, SECRETLY GATHERING OUR STRENGTH AND PURSUING OUR TECHNOLOGY. NOW WE SHALL STRIKE AT THOSE WHO HAVE BROUGHT THE STAGNATION OF PEACE AND PLENTY TO CYBERTRON.



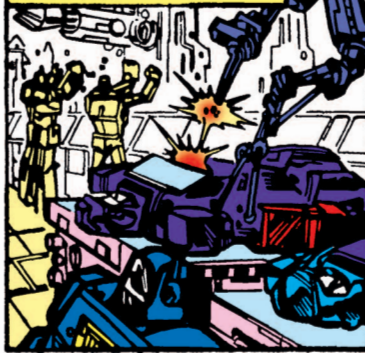
THEY SHALL LEARN THE WAY OF CONFLICT... THE WAY OF WAR... THE WAY OF MEGATRON

IN THE WEEKS THAT FOLLOWED, DECEPTICONS FROM EVERYWHERE REPORTED FOR CLANDESTINE MEETINGS TO LEARN THE LOGISTICS OF THE COMING CLASH, AND THEIR PARTS IN THE STRUGGLE.

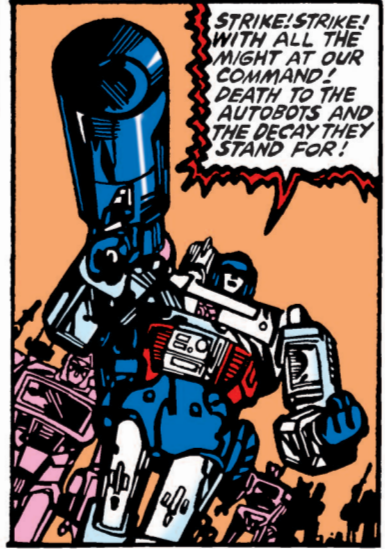


THE WONDERS OF THEIR TECHNOLOGY BESTOWED UPON THE DECEPTICONS THE AWESOME ABILITY TO TRANSFORM INTO WEAPONS OF UNPRECEDENTED POWER.

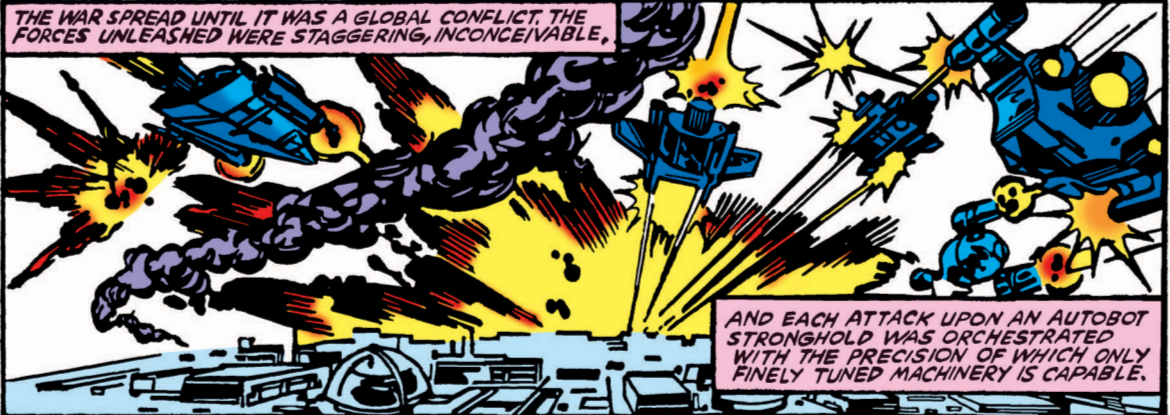
WITH THESE TASKS COMPLETED, ALL WAS IN READINESS FOR THE FIRST ASSAULT...



STRIKE! STRIKE! WITH ALL THE MIGHT AT OUR COMMAND! DEATH TO THE AUTOBOTS AND THE DECAY THEY STAND FOR!



THE WAR SPREAD UNTIL IT WAS A GLOBAL CONFLICT. THE FORCES UNLEASHED WERE STAGGERING, INCONCEIVABLE.



AND EACH ATTACK UPON AN AUTOBOT STRONGHOLD WAS ORCHESTRATED WITH THE PRECISION OF WHICH ONLY FINELY TUNED MACHINERY IS CAPABLE.

AS THE POWERS AT PLAY GREW IN STRENGTH, CYBERTRON, ITSELF, WAS SHAKEN LOOSE FROM ITS ORBIT-AND SENT HURLING THROUGH SPACE.



AND STILL THE WAR RAGED ACROSS THE BATTLE-SCARRED SURFACE OF THE RUNAWAY PLANET.

THOUGH TAKEN BY SURPRISE, AND DESTROYED BY THE BILLIONS IN THE INITIAL ASSAULTS, THE SURVIVING AUTOBOTS WERE NOT DEFENSELESS.

EACH WAS GIFTED WITH THE ABILITY TO ALTER HIS CONFIGURATION INTO STRANGE, UNEARTHLY VEHICLES... VEHICLES OF GREAT OFFENSIVE POTENTIAL.

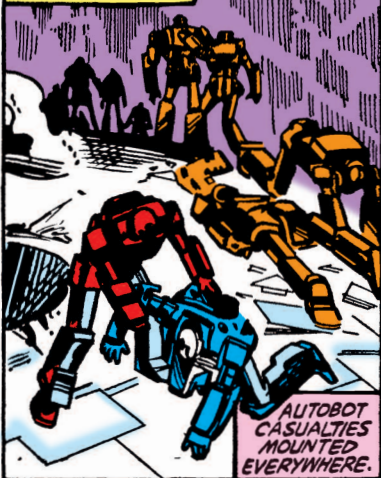
AND WHILE THE DECEPTICONS IN THEIR ARMORED AIRCRAFT SHAPES SWOOPED DOWN UPON THE MANY AUTOBOT CITY-STATES ERECTED DURING THE WAR... THE AUTOBOT WARRIORS STOOD FIRM AND FOUGHT BACK.

IN TIME, THE MAGNIFICENT ARMIES ON EACH SIDE OF THE STRUGGLE BECAME KNOWN AS--

# THE TRANSFORMERS™

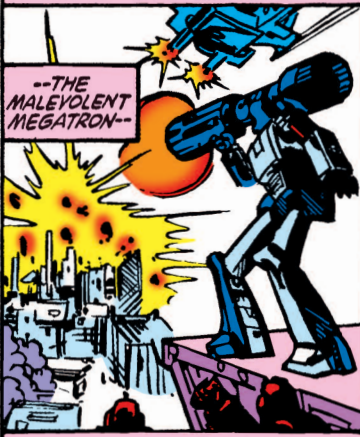
BILL MANTLO PLOT	RALPH MACCHIO SCRIPT	FRANK SPRINGER PENCILS	KIM DEMULDER INKS	HISSINS & PARKER LETTERING	NELSON YOMTOV COLORING	BOB BUDIANSKY EDITOR	JIM SHOOTER EDITOR IN CHIEF
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DESPITE THE VALOR OF THE AUTOBOTS, THE DECEPTICONS HAD PLANNED THE PATTERN OF THE WAR TOO WELL.



AUTOBOT CASUALTIES MOUNTED EVERYWHERE.

AND IN THE FOREFRONT OF THE MOST DEVASTATING ATTACKS STOOD--



--THE MALEVOLENT MEGATRON--

--WHOSE DEADLY FUSION CANNON SPEWED ENDLESS STREAMS OF ENERGY THAT LAID WASTE TO ENTIRE AUTOBOT STRONGHOLDS.

SOON WE DECEPTICONS WILL HAVE GROUND OUR ENEMIES UNDER OUR HEEL, AND WE SHALL BEGIN OUR PRIME TASK...



...REBUILDING CYBERTRON INTO A COSMIC DREADNOUGHT! WE SHALL TURN OUR VERY PLANET INTO THE SINGLE MOST DEADLY WEAPON IN EXISTENCE! THEN LET THE UNIVERSE BEWARE!

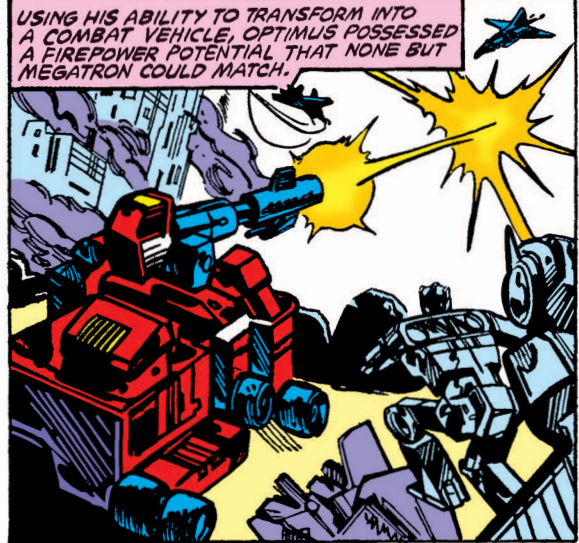
BUT FROM IACON, GREATEST OF CITY-STATES, THERE CAME A LEADER TO INSPIRE THE AUTOBOTS IN THEIR HOUR OF DEADLIEST PERIL...



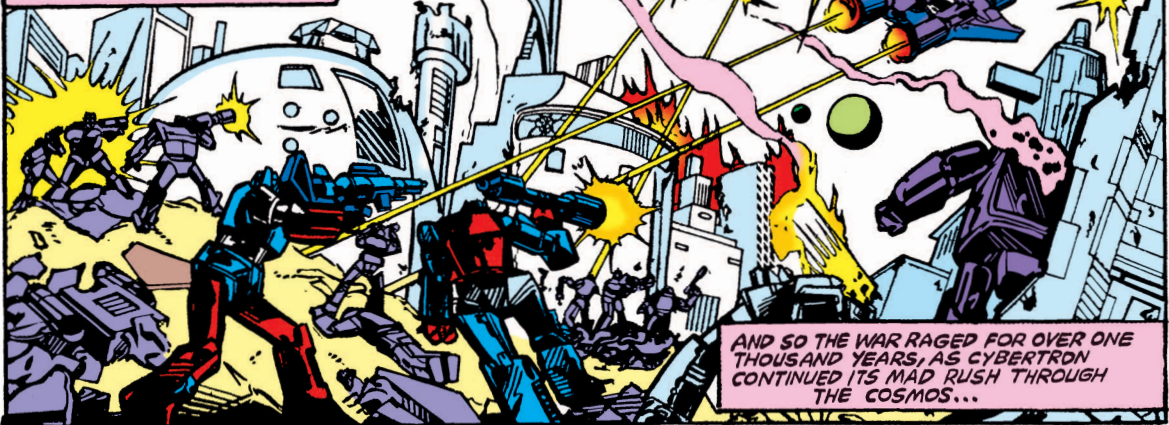
...OPTIMUS PRIME!

OF ALL THE AUTOBOTS, ONLY HE, WISE AND POWERFUL BEYOND UNDERSTANDING, WAS ABLE TO UNITE THE SCATTERED WARRIORS INTO A FULLY EFFECTIVE FIGHTING FORCE.

USING HIS ABILITY TO TRANSFORM INTO A COMBAT VEHICLE, OPTIMUS POSSESSED A FIREPOWER POTENTIAL THAT NONE BUT MEGATRON COULD MATCH.



UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF OPTIMUS PRIME, THE AUTOBOTS REPELLED THE DECEPTICONS' ASSAULTS WITH RENEWED VIGOR... AND REBUILT THEIR FALLEN CITY-STATES, UNTIL, AGAIN, THEY FUNCTIONED AS SANCTUARIES.



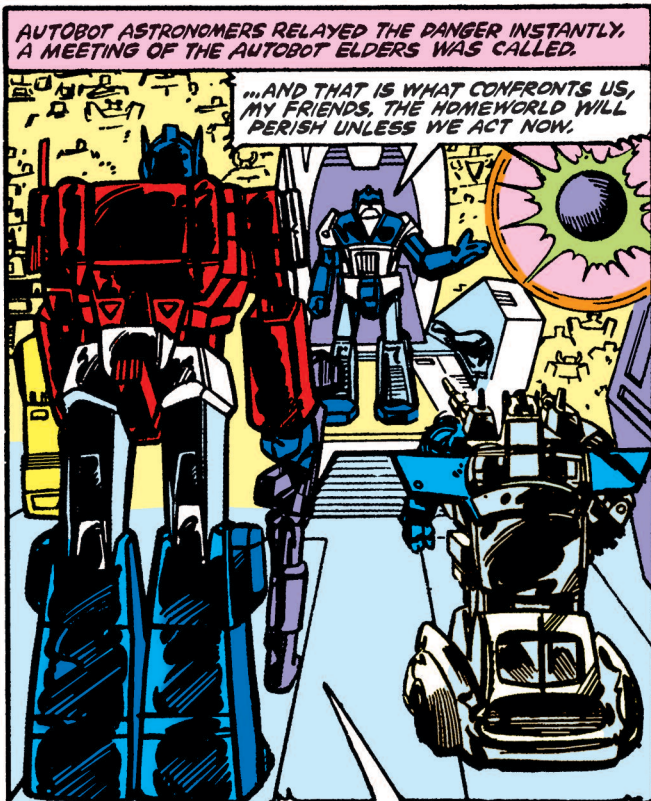
AND SO THE WAR RAGED FOR OVER ONE THOUSAND YEARS, AS CYBERTRON CONTINUED ITS MAD RUSH THROUGH THE COSMOS...

...UNTIL CAME THE DAY WHEN DANGER THREATENED FROM WITHOUT AS WELL AS WITHIN.



CYBERTRON'S COURSE HAD PLACED IT DIRECTLY INTO THE PATH OF-- AN ASTEROID BELT.

AUTOBOT ASTRONMERS RELAYED THE DANGER INSTANTLY, A MEETING OF THE AUTOBOT ELDERS WAS CALLED.



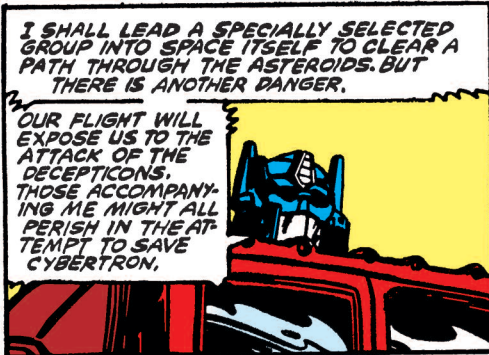
...AND THAT IS WHAT CONFRONTS US, MY FRIENDS, THE HOMEWORLD WILL PERISH UNLESS WE ACT NOW.

WHETHER RACKED BY WAR OR NOT, THIS IS OUR WORLD, SIRE. ONE DAY WE WILL RECLAIM IT. BUT FIRST, THIS THREAT MUST BE MET.



I SHALL LEAD A SPECIALLY SELECTED GROUP INTO SPACE ITSELF TO CLEAR A PATH THROUGH THE ASTEROIDS. BUT THERE IS ANOTHER DANGER.

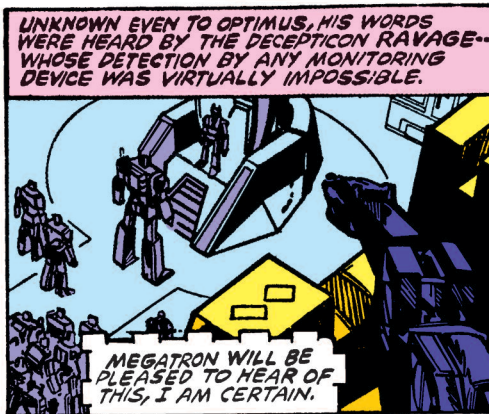
OUR FLIGHT WILL EXPOSE US TO THE ATTACK OF THE DECEPTICONS. THOSE ACCOMPANYING ME MIGHT ALL PERISH IN THE ATTEMPT TO SAVE CYBERTRON.



BUT I SHALL BE THERE TO MEET THE ENEMY SHOULD HE STRIKE.



UNKNOWN EVEN TO OPTIMUS, HIS WORDS WERE HEARD BY THE DECEPTICON RAVAGE-- WHOSE DETECTION BY ANY MONITORING DEVICE WAS VIRTUALLY IMPOSSIBLE.



MEGATRON WILL BE PLEASED TO HEAR OF THIS, I AM CERTAIN.

THE AUTOBOTS LABORED TO CONSTRUCT A CRAFT THAT WOULD PROPEL THEM INTO THE VOID... A CRAFT DUBBED-- THE ARK.

