

Collector (comics)

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The Collector (**Taneleer Tivan**) is a fictional character appearing in American comic books published by Marvel Comics. Debuting in the Silver Age of Comic Books, the character has been featured in nearly five decades of Marvel continuity.

The Collector appears in the Marvel Cinematic Universe, portrayed by Benicio del Toro, in a cameo in the mid-credits scene of 2013's *Thor: The Dark World*, and in 2014's *Guardians of the Galaxy*.

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Publication history

The Collector first appeared in *The Avengers* #28 (May 1966), and was created by Stan Lee and Don Heck.

Fictional character biography

Taneleer Tivan is one of the Elders of the Universe and is close to his fellow Elder En Dwi Gast (the Grandmaster). He apparently came to self-awareness billions of years ago, on the planet Cygnus X-1. He is an enormously powerful being who wielded the Power Primordial and, though at first he took the appearance of an old human, his true form is a powerful alien.

For millions of years, the Collector lived on an unknown world with his wife and child, spending his days in thought and contemplation. Over three billion years ago, when his wife, Matani Tivan, lost the will to live and relinquished her immortality, the Collector realized he would need a hobby to maintain his own sanity, and began collecting interesting artifacts and life forms from around the universe. Eventually, his obsession reached such heights he collected anything he considered rare or valuable often just for the sake of collecting. As such, he has a wide variety of rare or unique items at his disposal.

The Collector



The Collector (bottom center) on the cover of *The Avengers* #119 (January 1974). Art by John Romita, Sr.

Publication information

Publisher	Marvel Comics
First appearance	<i>The Avengers</i> #28 (May 1966)
Created by	Stan Lee (writer) Don Heck (artist)

In-story information

Alter ego	Taneleer Tivan
Team affiliations	Elders of the Universe
Abilities	Controls the Power Primordial to create virtually unlimited effects Limited shape-shifting Precognition Telepathy Effective immortality Armored suit

The Collector also had the power of prophecy, allowing him to foresee the rise of a being powerful enough to pose a threat to the Elders: Thanos. To protect life in the universe, the Collector created a massive museum of countless life forms to keep them safe from Thanos. For a time, he even possessed one of the six Infinity Gems, unaware of its true power, until Thanos took it.

At some point over his billions of years of life he came into contact with other beings who, like him, are the sole survivors of the first species in the universe. He often refers to these fellow elders as brothers though they usually only work together if they have a common goal.

In the modern era, the Collector eventually traveled to Earth. He captured the Wasp and sought to "collect" the other Avengers with help from the Beetle, but was defeated by them.^[1] He later enslaved Thor, then captured the Wasp and the other Avengers. He restored Goliath's size-change powers, but was then defeated by the Avengers again.^[2] He next compelled Iron Man to serve as his pawn against the warrior Val-Larr.^[3] He attempted to "collect" the Avengers once more, in Rutland, Vermont.^[4]

In *The Incredible Hulk* issues #197 ("...And Man-Thing makes three!") and #198 ("The Shangri-La syndrome!"), the Collector uses the previously captured Man-Thing and the Glob to capture the Hulk. After capturing the Hulk, the Collector muses on capturing the rest of the original Avengers. The Hulk escapes freeing several of the Collector's exhibits. The newly free exhibits die from old age because they are no longer artificially preserved by the power of the Collector's ship. Man-Thing also escapes disappearing into the Swamp. The Glob remains aboard the ship and though it is not shown, it is suggested that the Glob kills the Collector. The lines from the comic book are "What the Glob wants here is quite simple: He wants the Collector's life! The Collector's anguished scream fades long before it can filter through the museum-ships long corridors. For several seconds silence reigns both within the ship and without--"^[5]

The Korvac Saga

After Thanos was defeated by Earth's superheroes, the Collector foresaw a second major threat: Korvac the Machine Man, a cyborg monstrosity from the 31st century of a divergent timeline, taking the form of a man named Michael in 20th century New York. The Avengers were also aware of a new threat but did not know his identity. In an attempt to protect them, the Collector added some of them to his collection and was probably planning to enlist their aid, when a second group of Avengers appeared and defeated him in combat.^[6] After the defeat, the Collector remained in seclusion until a human named Peter Tran of Avondale summoned him to Earth.

Sensing that his end was at hand, the Collector revealed that having learned of Korvac, he had made his own daughter, Carina, into a spy and living weapon to use against the Machine Man, imbuing her with the Power Primordial. Just as he was about to tell the heroes who their enemy was, Michael learned of his duplicity and used his cosmic powers to blast the Collector into atoms, proving the prediction of the aged scholar's own end to be correct.^[7]

Subsequent activities

In the 1982 miniseries *Marvel Super Hero Contest of Champions*, the Elder known as the Grandmaster plays a game called the Contest of Champions with Death, which resulted in Death resurrecting his fellow Elder the Collector.^[8] The Collector captured Marrina, then battled Alpha Flight and Spider-Man.^[9] He aided the Grandmaster by tricking the Avengers into entering Death's realm.^[10]

The Collector also assisted his fellow elders in a plot to kill Galactus and recreate the universe, but he was thwarted by the Silver Surfer and consumed by Galactus.^[11] Since Death had vowed that the Elders could no longer die, they caused Galactus to have "cosmic indigestion" until they were forced out of him by Master Order and Lord Chaos.^[12] The Collector was one of the four Elders who aided the Silver Surfer and Nova in helping Galactus to defeat the In-Betweener.^[13] Once the battle was over the five Elders used their Infinity

Gems to instantaneously travel very far away from Galactus and his vengeance.^[14] He later gave his Infinity Gem to Thanos in exchange for the Runner, who Thanos was holding captive. The Runner beat the Collector up upon his release.^[15]

The Collector re-appeared when the Avengers fought Thane Ector and the Brethren, who were noted to have escaped from the Collector's collection. It was then noted later that the Collector had planned all of this, intending the Brethren to lay waste to the Earth so that he could "collect" the surviving humans. It was at this point he showed his true form to the Avengers and was noted to be very powerful; enough to subdue Thane Ector. The Collector was eventually thwarted by the Avengers, and the Brethren's Uni-Mind.^[16]

The Collector next used the Collection Agency and the Silver Surfer as pawns to capture a virus that caused insanity.^[17]

The Collector has become involved with Galactus once again when the latter entity wished to devour one of the worlds that held many of the entities the Collector had taken. Among them were the Starjammers and Wolverine.^[18]

The Grandmaster later makes a bet with the Collector who sets his team of **Defenders** (Hulk, Doctor Strange, Namor, and the Silver Surfer) against the Grandmaster's team of **Offenders** (which comprises the Red Hulk, Baron Mordo, Tiger Shark, and Terrax).^[19] The game results in Hulk claiming victory and the Collector complies with the terms of the game, giving the Hulk the lifeless body of Jarella.^[20]

Eight months after the events of *Secret Wars* as part of the *All-New, All-Different Marvel* event, the Collector is shown in charge of Battlerealm, the small surviving portion of Battleworld. He engages in a new Contest of Champions with the Grandmaster, with the prize being an ancient cosmic artifact called the Iso-Sphere.^[21]

When the hammer of the Ultimate Thor fell to Asgard after Battleworld had been erased, the Collector took all of the currently-abandoned Asgard into his possession when he found that he was unable to lift the hammer himself. When Thor came to investigate rumors of the hammer's existence, the Collector took Thor prisoner, threatening to kill other aliens in his collection unless Thor would tell him the 'secret' of how to bypass the worthiness enchantment.^[22] He then encounters Proxima Midnight and Black Swan, who were sent by Thanos to retrieve the hammer. After Odinson, Beta Ray Bill, Odinson's pet goat Toothgnasher and the Helhound Thori escape and battle his army, the Collector tries to recapture Odinson, only for him to break free and grab the hammer.^[23] Odinson chooses not to claim the hammer, but he and Bill are able to channel its power to return Asgard to its true place, simultaneously decimating the Collector's forces, prompting him to kill his last soldier so that he can have the pleasure of destroying something unique.^[24]

Powers and abilities

The Collector possesses the ability to manipulate cosmic energy for a variety of effects, including projecting concussive force beams, and the increasing of his size and mass (and hence physical strength) at will. He also possesses limited shape-changing abilities. His precognitive abilities give him brief visions of alternate future, although he must meditate for long periods to identify the individuals he sees in the vision and its apparent point in time. He has telepathic abilities that enable him to make limited contact with the minds of other Elders. Due to a vow by Death, Collector and all the Elders cannot die and are effectively immortal.

The Collector has a vast knowledge and comprehension of the advanced science and technology of numerous alien worlds, as well as a collection of devices and artifacts from those worlds. His armored battle-suit is made of the alien metal etherion, which amplifies the wearer's strength to superhuman levels, and it has jets that permit flight. He uses various weapons from many time periods and different worlds. Among his arsenal from Earth's past are catapults, Tibetan crystal balls that emit mystical rays, and magic beans that can conjure up warrior giants. He possesses a magic lamp that can summon a four-headed djinn with mystical powers. His "boxes" are rectangular "interdimensional traps" that can weaken a victim's strength or sanity. Other weapons

include gigantic robot guards, a stun beam, and stasis beams. The Collector also has zoos of alien beasts which he can release to attack his adversaries. Among this is Snake-Eyes, an enormous alien serpent with hypnotic powers. Other items in his collection include the Obedience Potion, with which the Collector can compel a human victim to do his bidding; the Cosmic Viewer, with which he can monitor events on various worlds; a Kymellian translation/control device resembling a flute, with which he can communicate with other living beings; and a time probe enabling him to find and procure artifacts from other time periods. He uses starships holding museums of his collections, a Temporal Assimilator that allows time travel, Persian "flying carpets" and a "flying cape" that allowed flight. He formerly possessed the Infinity Gem that could control reality, but he did not understand its power.^[25]

Other versions

- The Collector appears in issue 4 of *Marvel Super Hero Squad*.^[26]
- The Collector appears in *The Avengers: United They Stand* #6-7. He chooses to preserve a good population of Earth as he feels the planet is on the verge of ending. Although the Avengers escape, some citizens on Earth prefer to stay with The Collector.

In other media

Television

- The Collector appeared in *Hulk and the Agents of S.M.A.S.H.*, voiced by Jeff Bennett.^[27] His self-titled episode "The Collector" saw him arrive on Earth, where he seeks to abduct all of Earth's heroes to add to his collection, but his plans are foiled by the Agents of S.M.A.S.H. and Spider-Man. In the episode "It's a Wonderful Smash" (which is a Christmas episode), Collector uses a holographic neural inducer to place the Agents of S.M.A.S.H. in a virtual reality simulation in which each member lives an idealized life, but they are freed from the simulation by Rocket Raccoon. It was also revealed that he has the Orb of Truth in possession that the Guardians of the Galaxy were planning to give to the Shi'ar during their peace meeting with the Kree. Combining the holographic neural inducer and the Orb of Truth, the Agents of S.M.A.S.H. and the Guardians of the Galaxy were able to defeat Collector.
- The Collector appears in *Ultimate Spider-Man: Web Warriors*,^[28] voiced again by Jeff Bennett. In the four-part episode "Contest of Champions", he and the Grandmaster have a competition to determine the fate of the Earth. With Spider-Man being his favorite, Collector uses the heroes while Grandmaster uses the villains. Collector's had a history of losing to Grandmaster and lacks the confidence to beat his brother, but is convinced by Spider-Man that he can be victorious. In part four, Collector teams up with Spider-Man and fights various supervillains and finally Grandmaster for one final game. As part of the deal for winning, Collector agrees to stop collecting things from Earth and is instead interested in experiences, relationships, and connections with other people after witnessing Aunt May's dedication during their fight. He refuses to have a rematch with his older brother to avoid further conflict.
- The Collector appears in *Guardians of the Galaxy*, voiced by Tom Kenny. In the episode "One in a Million You", he brings the Guardians of the Galaxy and their ship onto his ship. Collector offers to tell the Guardians of the Galaxy where the crystals needed to power the Crypto-Map are in exchange that he borrows Rocket Raccoon. Rocket, feeling unappreciated by the Guardians and swayed by the resources in the Collector's lab, agrees to stay. Star-Lord is pointed to an asteroid while Rocket Raccoon gains access to the lab. What nobody knows is that Collector secretly wanted Rocket Raccoon in his collection due to him being the last of his kind. After having created a robot, Rocket Raccoon finds himself unable to leave the lab due to a special device Collector placed on him so that he can be part of his zoo. When the rest of the Guardians of the Galaxy return and fight Collector, Rocket Raccoon managed to free himself and ends up freeing the other alien creatures including Fin Fang Foom. Upon being pinned by Fin Fang Foom, Collector offered not to target other alien species in exchange that the Guardians of the Galaxy leave his ship and never return. Star-Lord accepts the deal in exchange that he tells him where they can find more crystals. Afterwards, Collector secretly follows the Guardians of the Galaxy to let them find the Star Seed for him. In the episode "Space Cowboys", the Guardians of the Galaxy encounter Collector on Knowhere. Collector plans to loan them a Repulsar Generator to get through a gravity storm in exchange for delivering Moombas to his brother, the Grandmaster on Conjunction while telling them

to feed them nothing but grass or else they will explode. Star-Lord later found a metal on the alpha Moomba which contained a pre-recorded message for Grandmaster leading the Guardians of the Galaxy to find out that Collector planned to blow up Conjunction. Grandmaster hired Yondu's Ravagers to take the Moombas back to Collector on Knowhere. During the conflict between the Guardians the Galaxy and the Ravagers, the Nova Corps arrived where Cosmo the Spacedog stated that Collector was behind the trafficking. Collector had to disavow this and got away.

Film

- Taneleer Tivan / The Collector is portrayed by Benicio del Toro in the Marvel Cinematic Universe.
 - In the mid-credits scene of *Thor: The Dark World*,^[29] Sif and Volstagg give the Aether to the Collector to keep in his collection, explaining that with the Tesseract already in Asgard, it would be unwise to keep two Infinity Stones close together. As they leave, the Collector remarks, "One down, five to go."^[30]
 - In *Guardians of the Galaxy*,^[31] the Collector contacts Gamora with an offer to purchase an Orb containing an Infinity Stone, but when it is delivered to him, the Collector's slave, Carina, touches it, causing a reaction in the stone that disintegrates her and destroys the Collector's gallery. In a post-credits scene, he and one of the items in his collection known as Howard the Duck are shown sitting in the ruins having drinks.
 - del Toro will reprise his role in *Avengers: Infinity War*.^[32]



Benicio del Toro as the Collector in *Thor: The Dark World* (2013)

Video games

- The Collector appears in *Disney Infinity: Marvel Super Heroes*.^[33]
- The Collector is the main non-playable character in *Marvel: Contest of Champions*, where he works under the command of Maestro to run the Contest in a pocket universe called the Battlerealm.
- The Collector appears as a playable character in *Lego Marvel's Avengers*, voiced once again by Jeff Bennett.
- The Collector is featured in *Guardians of the Galaxy: The Telltale Series*. He is served by an alien representative named Vylla (voiced by Erin Yvette).

Theme park

- The Collector appears as the main antagonist in the ride *Guardians of the Galaxy Mission Breakout* at Disney California Adventure, with Benicio del Toro reprising his role from the films. In the attraction, the Collector has captured the Guardians of the Galaxy after tricking them into coming to visit as they thought they too were going to be given a tour of the new facility and has put them up on display. During the ride, Rocket assists the other Guardians in escaping the Collector's imprisonment.

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External links

- Collector at the Marvel Universe wiki
- Collector on Marvel Database, a Marvel Comics wiki
- Collector at the Comic Book DB
- Collector on Internet Movie Database

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