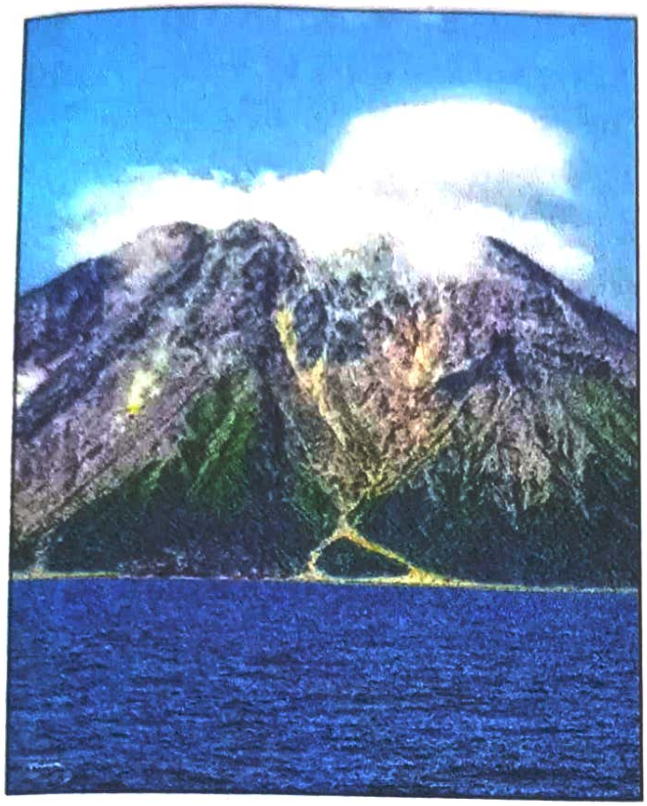


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Magma refill

Deep beneath Japan's Kikai caldera, a massive magma reservoir is refilling 7,300 years after one of the most powerful volcanic eruptions in Earth's recent geological history. A caldera is formed when the ground above a volcano's empty magma chamber collapses inward. Scientists used underwater seismic surveys to reveal a vast store of magma that appears to have accumulated since the ancient catastrophe. The discovery by scientists from Kobe University could help explain how super volcanoes like Yellowstone and Toba rebuild their magma supplies.