

# The Calzonian Volcano

## By Oliver Tixi

Think of a volcano like a calzone. Both have gooey, warm insides with boring, earthy outsides. However, once in a while, you might overcook that calzone, and then the gooey insides would become the gooey outsides. Smoke will rise hundreds of millimeters into the air, and the cheese-infused tomato sauce will trickle down the sides of the calzone like, you guessed it, a volcano.<sup>1</sup> The same is true for Earth, except the numbers are way bigger than your friendly neighborhood calzone. Millimeters turn into miles,<sup>2</sup> and fillings turn into hot magma, constantly moving, forced into eruption by gases and crust weaknesses.<sup>3</sup>

When Earth's plates crash, volcanic gases are trapped by thickening magma.<sup>4</sup> Thus, calamities tend to ensue. Rocks are dispensed into the sky.<sup>5</sup> Ash blankets the ground. Animals take their last breath. Dark clouds fill the air like the black plague.<sup>6</sup> Volcanoes can erupt with such force that even the sea is affected, sucked back into oblivion like the newest Hoover model.<sup>7</sup> Let us thank the heavens that calzones are not as dangerous.

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<sup>1</sup> Peter Clarkson, *Volcanoes* (Stillwater, Minn.: Voyageur Press, Inc., 2000), p. 8.

<sup>2</sup> *Volcanoes*, p. 8.

<sup>3</sup> Jacqueline Dineen, *Natural Disasters: Volcanoes* (Mankato, Minn.: The Creative Company, 2005), pp. 6-10.

<sup>4</sup> *Natural Disasters: Volcanoes*, pp. 6-10.

<sup>5</sup> *Volcanoes*, p. 8.

<sup>6</sup> Pliny the Younger, "Pliny to Tacitus," trans. Cynthia Damon. In Ronald Mellor, ed., *The Historians of Ancient Rome: An Anthology of the Major Writings*, second ed. (New York: Routledge, 2004), pp. 534-536.

<sup>7</sup> *Historians of Ancient Rome: An Anthology of the Major Writings*, p. 534.

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