

Japan Earthquake Prediction in Comic Book Scares Tourists

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Some people are cancelling or delaying their trips to Japan because of fears about a big earthquake. These fears started after a Japanese comic book, or manga, talked about a possible disaster coming in July 2025. The manga was made by an artist named Ryo Tatsuki. She made a similar comic back in 1999 that seemed to predict the massive earthquake and tsunami that hit Japan in March 2011. That event caused huge damage and led to a nuclear accident. Because of that, some fans believe she can see the future through her dreams.



In her latest comic, Tatsuki says a giant earthquake could happen under the sea between Japan and the Philippines, sending giant waves toward Japan. This has worried many people, especially in places like Hong Kong, China, Thailand, and Vietnam. Some travellers from these areas are now scared to visit Japan. Psychics have also made scary predictions. One even said a big earthquake would hit Tokyo in April 2025, but nothing happened. Still, many of these ideas spread quickly on social media, making people more afraid.

Japan's government and earthquake experts say that nobody can really predict exactly when or where an earthquake will hit. While Japan does have lots of earthquakes because it sits on a part of the Earth called the "Ring of Fire," the country is very prepared. It has strong buildings and good emergency plans. Ryo Tatsuki, the manga artist, said she's happy if her work helps people be ready for emergencies. But she also warned readers not to believe everything in her dreams and to listen to real experts.

Comprehension Questions:

1. What is the main idea of the article?
 - a) Japan will definitely have a big earthquake soon.
 - b) Ryo Tatsuki is a famous Japanese manga artist.
 - c) Some people are afraid to travel to Japan because of predictions in a comic.
 - d) Social media is always wrong about natural disasters.
2. What is the best meaning of the word "psychic"?
 - a) Someone who says they can see the future
 - b) A scientist who studies earthquakes.
 - c) A type of Japanese comic book.
 - d) A government emergency worker.

3. Why do people believe Ryo Tatsuki's new comic?
- a) She works for the Japanese government.
 - b) Her last comic seemed to predict a real disaster.
 - c) She is a famous scientist.
 - d) She uses data from earthquake scientists in her stories.
4. What is the "Ring of Fire"?
- a) A circle made of real fire
 - b) An area with many earthquakes
 - c) A magical ring from the comic
 - d) A famous Godzilla movie
5. Which of these statements is false?
- a) Japan does not have emergency plans for earthquakes.
 - b) Ryo Tatsuki made a comic that seemed to predict the 2011 tsunami.
 - c) The Japanese government says earthquakes can't be exactly predicted.
 - d) Japan has strong emergency plans.
6. What might happen if more people believe Tatsuki's comic?
- a) More people will travel to Japan.
 - b) There will be fewer buildings in Tokyo.
 - c) Tourism in Japan might decrease.
 - d) Earthquakes will stop happening.
7. How might false predictions hurt people?
- a) They might make people exercise more.
 - b) They make people build stronger homes.
 - c) They increase trust in the government.
 - d) They could cause panic and confusion.
8. How do experts feel about earthquake predictions?
- a) They think psychics are always right.
 - b) They say exact predictions are impossible.
 - c) They believe manga can prevent disasters.
 - d) They agree the Ring of Fire is safe.
9. Why did the psychic's prediction about Tokyo in April 2025 fail?
- a) Because psychics are always accurate.
 - b) Because Tokyo is not in the Ring of Fire.
 - c) Because the manga artist stopped it.
 - d) Because earthquakes can't be predicted exactly.
10. What does the article suggest about social media?
- a) It always spreads true information.
 - b) It can make fears worse by sharing unreliable predictions.
 - c) It is controlled by the Japanese government.
 - d) It helps experts predict earthquakes.

Speaking and Writing Activities:

- Discuss these questions with a partner or a small group.
 - Choose one topic and write a response to it. Show your writing to a classmate or teacher.
1. Have you ever believed in something that turned out not to be true? What happened?
 2. Do you think dreams can tell us important messages? Share a dream you remember and what you think it meant.
 3. Have you ever read comic books? Describe the story of a comic book you read.