

Crustuliniforme & Hebeloma Deepdelver
A History
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Crustuliniforme and Hebeloma Deepdelver are Svirfneblin (deep gnomes) twin brother and sister. Their parents were raised in the Svirfneblin city of Blingdenstone in the Underdark but became emissaries with the gnomes residing in the Feydark (the Underdark of the Feywild). Such extraplanar traveling led them to expand their activities to the Shadowdark (the Underdark of the Shadowfell). Eventually they began to act as interplanar diplomats, who traveled across the Astral Sea to reach distant allies in the earthen Elemental Planes of Chaos.

Crustuliniforme and Hebeloma were born in an earthen elemental domain in the Astral Sea. As “Moteborn”, their special attachment to the elemental forces, specifically those associated with earth and stone, were evident from an early age. The brother, Crustuliniforme, developed the ability to summon a mud wretch, a bubbling and dripping creature of earth and water, which fused with him and became his elemental companion. The sister, Hebeloma, developed an analogous ability to summon a magmin, a hulking creature of earth and fire, as her elemental companion.

Alarmed by these traits quite unheard of in Svirfneblin, the Deepdelver family returned to Blingdenstone, where the children’s natural disposition for the silence and darkness of untold megatons of stone over their head could re-establish a sense of normalcy. But the impact of their children’s exposure to extraplanar forces was not to be so easily undone. Not only did the elemental companions accompany Crustuliniforme and Hebeloma back to the Underdark, but the twins were ostracized by the usually accepting Svirfneblin community for their unusual companions and corresponding behavior.

Thinking to reverse this course, the parents enrolled the more malleable of the two, their son, Crustuliniforme, in the Svirfneblin druidic school. Thus Crustuliniforme was educated as a Druid of the Wastes, a master of stone, learning to tame the elemental powers within himself, to listen to the stone, to blend in with it and to control it.

There was no such avenue available to the more volatile Hebeloma. Left to her own devices, she retreated to the unlit depths of the University of Blingdenstone library stacks. There she happened upon another outcast, a rare Svirfneblin sorcerer, who perceived the elemental impact of the outer planes on the child not as a spell-scarring but as the unlocking of a great, untapped potential. Without her parents’ knowledge, the sorcerer took Hebeloma as her apprentice. In the deep places beneath Blingdenstone, Hebeloma learned the arcane arts of a branch of sorcery, particularly suited to her, earthen elemental sorcery. As an Earth Elementalist, Hebeloma learned to harness the elemental power within her and to use the stone that surrounded her on all sides as a weapon to be reckoned with.

As time passed, life in Blingdenstone became more difficult than either Crustuliniforme and Hebeloma had anticipated. As they grew to young adults, their parents resumed their extraplanar travels. Left in the Underdark on their own the twins grew more independent. Neither the druidic monastery nor the master sorceress appreciated what they saw as insubordination. Crustuliniforme’s was brought before the elder board and narrowly escaped excommunication from the society, receiving instead a year-long suspension of his studies. At the same time, Hebeloma’s teacher began to fear for the wayward violence of her pupil. She too threatened a suspension of her instruction.

Shamed and infuriated, the brother and sister set out into the dangers of the Underdark on their own. They abandoned the conventional wisdom of the Svirfneblin to stay deep in the Underdark and ventured upward to the surface world. There they found a place that while somewhat more naturally hospitable than the Underdark was more complicated in the politics of its varied inhabitants. Still, having been raised in the Elemental Chaos, nothing shocked these deep gnomes and they ventured forth on the surface with a defiant spirit of adventure.