

Ancient Dungeon VR

Gauntlet V1.0

By Deaderthanddeath



Welcome, my friend, to this dark and desolate corner of reality. On the surface, it seems like your classic Dungeons and Dragons fantasy world: adventurers seeking fame and fortune, scholars trying to get their hands on every scrap of knowledge, and monsters who just simply kill.

It is also where The Ancient Dungeon calls home. A constantly shifting labyrinth filled to the brim with traps and monsters, endless secrets behind every corner, and at the bottom lies a Beast older than recorded history. It's an unconquered pit of death, yet that shall not stop the endless flow of adventurers all seeking the glory of being the one to conquer the Ancient Dungeon, and with it, its treasures.

This is where you arrive, in another body seeking the Ancient Dungeon for some unknown goal. And this is where you will stay, until you achieve it.

+1000 Choice Points

...

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...But that would be terribly uninteresting, would it? All the pain and suffering of everyone who died here, all in vain just because some godling decided to stop here.

Let's make it more fair, shall we?

-1000 Choice Points

Hmm, not enough. Ah, here we go. Every single perk, item, power, or whatever else that is not from here has been stripped from you. Not even your Bodymod or Warehouse remains. Just you, as you were before your Chain.

Don't worry, you'll get everything back at the end, but until then, let's hope your flesh and steel will be enough.

Origins:

- Who exactly are you, and what do you seek?

-Yet Another Corpse | Free

You aren't the first one here, nor will you be the last. Plenty of people have come to this wretched place, seeking all kinds of glory: fame, fortune, it doesn't matter. They all end up the same, yet another corpse.

Your win condition is to fully uncover the mysteries of the Ancient Dungeon, and rid the world of the Beast, which will take about 100 successful trips at a minimum.

-Yet Another Supporter | Free

Perhaps a much safer choice than above, but you are still interested in the Dungeon nonetheless. Perhaps you are a Researcher, bent on uncovering the secrets of the Dungeon, or maybe a Blacksmith forging tools for the foolish who wander inside. Heck, you could be something entirely new, but the end remains the same: just another supporter.

Regardless, your condition is to aid the Adventurers who come your way, allowing 100 souls to make it entirely through the Dungeon, and defeat the Beast.

-Yet Another Monster | Free

A very different choice than what was provided before. You wander the halls of the Ancient Dungeon, one of its servants who kill any foolish enough to enter. Perhaps you were once one of those fools, but not anymore. Just another monster.

Your own condition isn't as complex as the two above. Kill. You don't need to uncover your master's secrets, just kill. You don't need to help others, just kill. Preventing 100 souls from making it out of this cursed place alive is all you need to do.

Age and gender don't matter as much as you think. Choose whatever you want! Want to be a young prodigy? An old scholar? Men and women, of all ages, have been seeking glory throughout all of time. And Monsters? It never mattered to them in the first place.

Perks:

- You are a very accomplished 'adventurer' at this point, no doubt you know the drill. Of course, it still might need saying. Every origin gets a 50% discount on their line, with the 100 CP options being free.

Generic:

-Self-Defense Methods | 100 CP

The Dungeon is a scary and dangerous place, even for the most experienced of adventurers, and one can only imagine what it must be like for those with lesser experience, or even none. Good for you then that you have *some* combat experience!

You have fully mastered the basics of swordplay, and good enough hand-eye coordination to throw a knife and hit 8 times out of 10. This experience has also made you more gifted in learning combat skills, allowing you to easily pick up the basics of any weapon without the need for a teacher. Be warned however, you are by no means a master swordsman, and skill alone won't get you far in the Dungeon.

-Insight Points | 200 CP

The Ancient Dungeon is a truly mysterious place, with new discoveries around every corner, and with it greater mystery. Thankfully, Researchers around the globe have devised a method to streamline this process, called the Insight System. Any discovery made by you, directly or indirectly (though you still must have had a big hand in it) accumulates into something called Insight Points. Insight can be spent to acquire more knowledge, manifesting as a 'leap in logic' that proves scarily accurate.

However, any discoveries made using Insight does not generate Insight Points on its own, and while your leaps in logic are exactly that, it cannot reach too far. One can't extrapolate how to create a lightsaber out of a laser pen, though you can work up to it through multiple uses. And as a general rule, the more complex or powerful the end result is, the more Insight is needed to understand it.

-Not Dead Yet | 300 CP

Ah, it seems you died. Good for you then that you died inside the Dungeon. Due to the necromantic effects of the place, death isn't as concrete of an end anymore. Instead, you become a wraith, something akin to a ghost but not quite there yet. In this state one can fly and ignore most physical and magical attacks, but that seems to be the extent of your capabilities. No possession, illusions, or other ghost tricks for you.

What you do have, however, is the chance at resurrection. So long as somebody is willing to share half their current lifeforce with you, you will be revived with said amount. And this is a true resurrection, you won't rise as a zombie or some other unholy thing. However, your wraith state is unstable, so if you cannot find somebody to revive you within an hour, you will fully dissipate and leave the mortal coil. Post Gauntlet, this will work anywhere, not just in the Dungeon.

Yet Another Corpse:

-Heads Up Display | 100 CP

The dungeon shares many traits with other, more famous dungeons. One such trait is its ability to rearrange and alter its layout, making no two delves the exact same. What you have here is something to help you get around that, a unique piece of magic that is every adventurer's best friend. Appearing around one of your hands, this magic displays many things: your current health; number of keys; amount of coins; a small map displaying the places you've been; it even keeps track of any allies that might be down there with you!

-Quick Metabolism | 200 CP

There is rarely time to rest inside the Dungeon, being fighting after fight after fight. There isn't really enough time to eat or recover for an injured adventurer. It's almost required to have *some* way to keep on going, so many adventurers have learned to metabolise their food very quickly, a skill you have learned. This allows you to not only instantly digest any kind of food, but also turn it into a kind of healing effect, recovering more of your health the more calorie-dense the food, but even a few apples can put you back into fighting shape. Fight, heal, and eat on the go!

-Return to Safety | 400 CP

I see you've come prepared, eh? What you have here is a small bit of Magic, most likely created by some Mage who fought the Beast itself. It is a simple one, a teleportation effect that automatically transfers the caster to a safe place when on the brink of death. Of course, since this was reverse-engineered from the Beast, safe in this definition is *far* away from danger, taking the caster back to the surface. The spell doesn't have a number of restricted uses, though it does need a cooldown of 24 hours before it can be used again.

-Lucky Find | 600 CP

Money makes the world go round, and is why many adventurers chose to take this path. Yes, there is fame, power, women or men, but most beloved of all is *treasure*. And it seems you are beloved by it as well, considering how often you seem to trip over such things. Whether it's coins or magical artifacts, you have frightening luck when it comes to finding such things, always getting at least *something* from a chest. What's more, it seems like the things you find are always a step above the rest, whether in quality or quantity.

Yet Another Supporter:

-Successful Merchant | 100 CP

Ah, capitalism. You can't escape it even in a fantasy world. You have all the skills and experience of an accomplished merchant, but you also have something a bit more than other merchants: customers! No matter where you set up shop, you are guaranteed to have at least a few people buy from you, even if said shop is at the bottom of a perilous dungeon.

-Kill Some Rats In My Basement, Please | 200 CP

The life of a supporter isn't one as fraught with danger as an Adventurer's, but sometimes it still comes to you. The problem is, you're way too busy (or lazy) to deal with it yourself, so you have mastered the greatest skill of the bureaucrats: delegation! So long as you are willing to provide something in return, a certain type of person will just come out of the woodwork to help you! Even if said task is to delve into a dangerous dungeon so you can get your damn thesis done on time, people will still come. It's almost like you have some kind of mark over your head showing you need help...

-Graduated Researcher | 400 CP

Well, more like a scholar, an educated (for magical medieval times) one at that! You know plenty of things about the material and magical world, having a combination of theory and real-world experience. But it's not only that, you see. You would make for a pretty terrible scholar if you *didn't* attempt to discover something new, a practical guarantee when it comes to you. So long as you put your nose to the grindstone, you will discover *something* new when researching, no matter how small.

-Multi-Generational Development | 600 CP

You want the real meat and potatoes, eh? Origin leather and steel in this case. You are a very skilled and accomplished blacksmith, knowing how to create a wide variety of things, from armor to crossbows. But you also have a unique talent: the longer something you helped create is being made, the better the result will be. Spend a year hammering at a sword? It would be far sharper and durable than its materials suggest. A weapon that your descendants will spend multiple generations finishing? It would become the next best thing to unbreakable, and would possess some innate Magic relating to what it is.

Yet Another Monster:

-Monster Physiology | Free, Mandatory, and Exclusive to Yet Another Corpse

There are many monsters one can find in this deadly dungeon, the only question is which one are you? A slime, a zombie, a magical construct, a zombie, a deadly plant, a skeleton, annoying flies, *and a zombie*. I suppose the Beast favors necromancy, considering the sheer amount of undead in this place. However, no matter what you chose, with just this you are one of the average monsters in this place. You may have some kind of special ability, but even the average adventurer could take you out.

-Environmental Adaptation | 200 CP

There are many environments inside the dungeon, from a magical library to an infested cave. And just like those environments, the monsters inside change to match it. It is unknown whether it's the Beast or the monsters themselves (though in all likelihood it's both) that are the cause of this phenomenon, but within you is the ability to do the same. More often than not it's simple, like acquiring a piece of armor or some weapon related to the area. Rarer will your body change or you acquire some kind of ability, like your body becoming a breeding ground for a dangerous poison or disease, but your physiology wouldn't be affected by it. But no matter the change, it won't make you truly powerful, just a little more dangerous than your fellows.

-Floor Guardian | 400 CP

You are more than just another monster now, it would not be an exaggeration to say you are the strongest on your floor. Take whatever species you chose in **Monster Physiology**, and upgrade it. A slime would become massive, capable of splitting off small slimes when hit; one of the many undead would become far more enduring and have incredible strength, enough to send out spikes of stone just by striking the floor; a magical construct could become larger and much more capable of using the magic programmed into them, doing things like teleportation and summoning monsters.

-Beastly Magic | 600 CP

You are no simple monster anymore, nay, you are a Beast. What's the distinction? The lost art of Magic. And not the magic of the constructs, they can only use what's been programmed into them. No, what you have is true spellcasting: teleportation; high-powered deadly lasers; raising the dead; commanding monsters; creating a massive, ever-shifting labyrinth; etc. The only limit you have is your energies, and what spells you know. But do not be complacent with this. Even the mighty Beast has almost been laid low many times despite their terrible power, and their little trick of teleportation will not last forever.

Items:

- Every origin gets a 50% discount on their line, with the 100 CP options being free.

Generic:

-Potions and Poisons | 100 CP

Many things can be found in the Dungeons, and though these may be far from the most useful, they are handy nonetheless. These small orb-shaped glasses are essentially potions, containing different types of magical liquid that can both help and harm. One can strengthen your muscles to increase your attack power, while another can deal constant damage to your enemies. You now have a small supply of these liquids, restocking and randomizing every time you leave the Dungeon. Post Gauntlet, your stock restocks every day at midnight.

-Development Plan | 100 CP

Research and Development can be an annoying thing, experiencing constant failures while not even knowing if the path you're on is the right one. Well, what if there was a way to fix that? Behold, the Development Plan!

Developed to work alongside the Insight System, the Development Plan works to streamline the R&D process by showing the possible paths in development one can take, and the next few steps within that path! Of course, this only shows what can be achieved, and only gives a brief and simple explanation of whatever step you are currently looking at. This was made to help aid discoveries, not make them itself.

Oh, one more thing. Should one have knowledge of the Insight System, the Development Plan will also show how much Insight is needed to unlock a certain step. The two *were* made to go together, after all.

-Survival Supplies | 100 CP

Despite what many think, adventuring isn't always delving into a dungeon and obtaining its treasure. In fact, most of the time it's incredibly boring, with long travel times to places people rarely go to, meaning it's highly unlikely one will be able to rest at a tavern or an Inn every night. Hence, that's what these are for: a collection of mundane items all for wilderness trekking and camping. Rations, a tent, a sleeping bag, and a small collection of different cooking supplies. Yours is a bit special though, as unlike everyone else's your supplies will fully repair and restock themselves every week.

Yet Another Corpse:

-Blade and Knife | 100 CP

The classic adventurers starting kit. A moderately sized sword, easily swung with one hand, and a knife which can fly unerringly straight. Both are unbreakable, and never seem to need sharpening, plus the knife quite literally flies back into your hand whenever you call upon it.

-Crossbow and Dagger | 200 CP

The magnum opus of a blacksmith family, one that spent many generations crafting it, and it is a beauty. Weapons of deadly efficiency, everything here is unbreakable and never degrades. A crossbow, with an arrow that flies straight and true, and always comes back in a short time; and a dagger, though more akin to a shortsword, always sharp. It may seem like just an alternative to the classic sword and knife pair, and yet in some ways it's far more useful.

-Merchant Shop | 400 CP

The dungeon is a dangerous place, it would take a madman to set up shop in here! And yet, here we are. Every so often, especially in dangerous places like this, you will encounter someone willing to sell their wares to you. For what surprisingly little they may have, what they do sell are very useful, from food to Relics. Heck, they even have gambling, if you want to try your luck. Just... don't attack the merchant. You may not live to regret it.

Yet Another Supporter:

-Pages and Ink | 100 CP

Your thesis papers, really. A never ending supply of parchment, ink, and pens. Never will you need to worry about running out of supplies, just research material.

-Blacksmith's Tools | 200 CP

An anvil, hammer, furnace, tongs, molds, and not that I haven't listed, this is everything a blacksmith needs to forge! And these aren't normal tools either, the spark of magic within has made them unbreakable and always capable of shaping and melting material, no matter how unnaturally durable it may be.

-Magical Mirror | 400 CP

Speaking of research material, this is a scholar's best friend! Never more will you need to delve into dangerous situations, as this mirror contains potent scrying magic. Though it cannot freely scry, needing to be 'attached' to a target, once activated it is almost like you are there yourself! Better still, nothing can cut (or even sense) your connection except for you, or your target's death.

Yet Another Monster:

-Rock And Stone | 100 CP

No, not mining equipment, literally an endless supply of small to large rocks you can pull out of nowhere. Perfect for pelting those annoying adventurers carrying around crossbows!

-Worn Armor | 200 CP

Actual mining equipment, but not really. It could be that, or it can be a rusted helm, or a suit of old leather, or a broken shield. Some kind of old protective equipment, most likely taken from the many corpses here. Now you may be wondering, what about these are special? They look like they would break in one hit! Well, you're right, they do! But they are still capable of fully blocking a single attack before breaking, no matter the power or potency behind it. And when it breaks, you will find another in a few days. Quite interesting, but it makes one wonder how they acquired this trait in the first place, given their condition...

-A Floor To Call Your Own | 400 CP

It might not be your floor if you don't have a certain perk, but it looks like the Ancient Dungeon has 6 floors now! Its environment and location in the Dungeon is up to you, and gets the same treatment as the other floors, constantly rearranging itself. Post-gauntlet, it can be attached to any structure you own, or can be found in the wild somewhere. If you have **Floor Guardian**, this is your floor, and the inhabitants won't attack you.

Drawbacks:

-Cowardly | 100 CP

Damn, even the Beast has more of a spine than you! You are cowardly to your core, always trying to find an excuse to not go into danger, no matter how flimsy. If you want to do anything else other than die of old age here, someone will have to force you.

-Bad Choice Of Location | 100 CP

The Dungeon is not a good place. Both because it's a deathtrap, but also because it's literally in the middle of ass-backwards nowhere.

For Supporters, this means that instead of somewhere sensible, you decided to set up shop inside the Dungeon. What's weirder, somehow your shop got integrated with the Dungeon, its location getting randomized alongside the rest of the Dungeon. And no, you can't move to the surface, at least for merchant needs.

For Adventurers, the supply lines to the Dungeon are down. That means your allies have much less to work with, including food and the like. Even the Mystery Merchant's stock has been affected, rarely pulling out the stronger and more useful stuff.

For Monsters, people just don't come by the Dungeon all that often. After all, it is a remote place in the middle of nowhere with barely any infrastructure. Only the bored, curious, and the ones with nothing left come here.

-No Sense Of Direction | 100 CP

With a sense like this, how have you gotten this far? Nevermind, you probably just stumbled into a shortcut or something. You have a hopelessly poor sense of direction, unable to remember even the simplest of paths or directions. Even if you had a constantly updating map attached to your wrist, you would still get lost!

-Do Not Serve This Man | 200 CP

Forget just overcharging you, merchants just seem to flare out hate you. You won't be getting anything from them, it seems, and it won't be any better in the Dungeon. In fact it's worse, as the Mysterious Merchant will basically attack you the moment you set foot in his shop.

-Progression-Locked | 200 CP

Now, you might expect to have everything you bought right away, but let me stop you there. When you arrive, you will find yourself stripped of your purchases here, but don't panic. There *is* a way to get them back.

For Adventurers and Supporters, your purchases are locked behind what's essentially *sidequests*. You want your **Crossbow and Dagger**? Reach the Beast at least once. Want to **Return To Safety** easily? You need to team up with the Researcher to reverse-engineer the

Beast's magic. You want to learn the secrets of **Multi-Generational Development**? Prove yourself worthy of the old blacksmith's teachings.

For Monsters, it's far simpler: just keep killing. Every 10 people you kill will grant you a single perk or item back, starting from the lower priced options and going up.

-Annoying Neighbors | 200 CP

Infighting is pretty frequent, it seems. Whoever your allies are supposed to be, it seems something about you has upset them.

For Adventurers and Supporters, your allies don't take your advice seriously, and might overcharge you for stuff, but you will still be able to work together.

For Monsters it's worse: the other monsters inside the Dungeon seem actively hostile to you, attacking you on sight like you are another invader. Thankfully, the Beast doesn't seem to care, not that it has ever seemed to have anyway.

-A True Dungeon | 400 CP

The dungeon is small, only five floors, though there may be undiscovered ones. Doesn't seem quite right for such a dangerous place, yeah? Well now, it can be considered a true dungeon. A whole 100 floors, each one as diverse and different from each other as the original, getting stranger and stronger the deeper you go. The only consolation is that the outside is no longer just a small camp, now more akin to a city.

For Monsters, you may think this is a good thing, but unfortunately you are unable to leave the lower, more dangerous floors. Not only will that mean less Adventurers to hunt, but those that do make it that far down are difficult opponents.

-Shitty Customers | 400 CP

Not everybody is a good person, some are assholes, some are greedy, others just manipulate and lie to get what they want. And unfortunately, you are going to be on the receiving end of that kind of behavior *a lot*.

For Supporters, you get exactly what the name implies. Your customers, shitty as they are, are far more willing to attack you and steal your stuff, plus if they do succeed in nabbing your things, then that person will no longer count towards your goal.

For Adventurers, you have a harder time getting the things you want or need, and that's because someone always enters the Dungeon ahead of you. Maybe they found it in the Dungeon, stole it from the Mysterious Merchant, or didn't care enough to take it. Either way, you are left with the scraps of what they didn't take.

For Monsters, it turns out that your kind leaves behind drop items on death. Coins, keys, unique magical ingredients, this means that the very act of killing allows adventurers to become stronger. Heck, you might face someone wielding a weapon made of *you* if you died!

-The Great And The Terrible | 400 CP

Ah, I suppose you want a challenge then. Very well, if you insist, but don't say I didn't warn you. For your time here, you will find that your opposing side, so to speak, has undergone an upgrade.

For Monsters, the Adventurers raiding your home aren't just that, they are *Heroes*, with feats worthy of that name. Of course, those are the strongest ones, but even the average Adventurer can stand on par with a floor boss.

For Adventurers and Supporters, the Monsters in the Dungeon are far stronger than they should be. Remember the Floor Guardian perk? Well that level of strength is to be expected out of the *weakest* of your opponents. The Beast? Well, all I can say is that *it lives up to its name*.

Rewards:

-You've done it, then. Whether you found the secrets of the Dungeon or protected it, you have accomplished your goal and are deserving of a great reward, of which you may find below.

Adventurer

To Slay A Beast

Adventurers are many things, and yet the most common one is their stubbornness. Something you have in spades, alongside plenty of luck and skill. Enough of which that it wouldn't be odd to see you fighting a Dragon in some other Dungeon, and win.

But this isn't all that you are, in fact where others say something is impossible or unachievable, the more you stubbornly bash your head against a problem, the more likely you are to actually get somewhere. Try and kill the same monster enough times, and eventually you will. Even if said monster is a teleporting, laser spewing beholder that teleports you away when you get close to killing it. The definition of insanity isn't quite so much when it comes to you.

Supporter

Blood Of The Beast

Among all of the mysteries of the Dungeon, the Beast itself is perhaps the most strange. Undeniably old and possessing incredible magicks, but perhaps the most strange thing is its blood. Potent and magical, the Blood of The Beast is an incredible ingredient. For what? Basically anything. Use it in a potion and its effects would be enhanced dozen-fold; use it in forging and the result would be a potent magical artifact almost like that of a Relic; use it in a ritual and you might summon and bind something far above your level; and well the possibilities are endless with this.

All of the above could be achieved with just a small amount, and you have basically an entire Beast's worth of Blood in a jar, and considering the size of that thing... it's a lot. And best yet, the jar will refill itself at the start of every jump!

Monster

Domain Of The Beast

It appears the Beast has taken notice of you. Of your actions, and your... *differences* from the other monsters. Oh don't worry, it's a good thing in this situation, as the Beast has decided to reward you with a Dungeon of your very own! Taking the form of a small cube with strange engravings, placing it down and letting it 'take root' will cause the cube to begin transforming the surrounding area into a piece of your new Dungeon. This is a process that takes half a decade to finalize, but once done the area will be added to the Dungeon and will be treated as such. If you have **A Floor To Call Your Own**, it will be removed from the Ancient Dungeon and added to yours.

What's more, as the Dungeon Master, you gain dominance over all beings inside your dungeon, save for invaders. Shape the place to your will, transform dead corpses into your minions, control the monsters directly, even spells cast inside here are enhanced!