



## Midnight Inspiration

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Last night inspiration struck me as I was walking past the kitchen. I immediately changed course and ended up standing in front of the pantry desperately trying to find the yellow split peas. After pulling out the step ladder, I spotted them on the top shelf along side a mostly empty bag of brown/green lentils. I grabbed both and then honed in on a different drawer that contained another whole pound of lentils. I grabbed two large mixing bowls, dumped the beans in each, covered them with water, and headed to bed. This morning I brushed my teeth and headed back to the kitchen to find my lovely legumes all swollen with water and waiting for me. After pulling out all of my basics and my spices, my two year old niece spotted me in the kitchen. So I had one of my sisters hunt up a head scarf and "apron" for her, too, before we could get down to the very serious business of preparing a lovely Indian Feast. We had fun: me chopping and crying, her pouring and stirring. In all it took us about 2 hours to get everything done: Lentil Soup, Channa Dal, and Yellow Dal (last minute addition, gotta love those quick cooking red lentils). My mother, my niece, two of my sisters, and I devoured the offerings and even chose what we wanted for desert. The harmonious blends of spices, shallot, ginger, and garlic have left us happy and cozy. Yum.....

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