Curried Butternut Squash Soup

- 1 T pumpkin seed oil, or oil of your choice
- 1 large onion, chopped
- 2 shallots, chopped
- 3 cloves garlic, chopped
- 1 T fresh ginger, chopped
- 1 T <u>curry</u> powder (or less, for less spicy soup)
- 1 T mirin (Japanese rice wine)
- 4 lbs **butternut squash**, peeled, seeded and cut into cubes
- 6 c vegetable stock
- 1 1/2 c<u>coconut milk</u> (can use light, for fewer calories)
- kosher salt and freshly ground pepper
- cilantro, chopped for garnish
- coconut shavings, toasted for garnish

In a large soup pot, heat the oil, medium hot. Add onion, shallot, garlic, ginger and curry powder, cooking until aromatic, about 5 minutes. Add mirin, and cook down until reduced by half. Add stock and squash, bringing to a boil, then reduce the heat to low, and simmer, covered, until the squash is soft, about 15-20 minutes. Remove from the heat, and purée until smooth

A food mill was used to grind the vegetables into a velvety smooth consistency without being too thick. Return the soup to a pot, add coconut milk, heat, salt and pepper, then garnish with cilantro and coconut.

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