Chard and White Bean Soup

Ingredients:

- 1 bunch of fresh chard
- 1 can of white beans, rinsed and drained
- 1 onion, chopped
- 2 carrots, diced
- 2 stalks of celery, diced
- 3 cloves of garlic, minced
- 4 cups vegetable or chicken broth
- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- Salt and pepper to taste
- Grated Parmesan cheese (optional, for serving)

Instructions:

- 1. Heat olive oil in a large pot over medium heat.
- 2. Add the chopped onion, diced carrots, and diced celery to the pot. Sauté for about 5 minutes until the vegetables soften.
- 3. Add the minced garlic and sauté for an additional minute until fragrant.
- 4. Rinse the chard thoroughly, remove the stems from the leaves, and chop both into bitesized pieces.
- 5. Add the chard stems to the pot and cook for 5 minutes until they start to soften.
- 6. Add the chard leaves, white beans, and vegetable or chicken broth to the pot. Bring the mixture to a simmer.
- 7. Cover the pot and let the soup simmer for about 15-20 minutes until the chard is tender and the flavors have melded together.
- 8. Season with salt and pepper to taste.
- 9. Ladle the soup into bowls and sprinkle with grated Parmesan cheese if desired. Serve hot with crusty bread for a comforting and wholesome meal.