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Source: M.L. Gandhi, reflections about Johannesburg, South Africa, January 1908.

I had just heard (that my fellow Indian protestors) had been sentenced to three months' imprisonment with hard labor, and had been fined a heavy amount....If these men had done anything wrong, I had done worse . So I asked the Judge to be harshest with me.... I remember that I had no problem entering the prison cell.

Sometimes we were allowed to cook for ourselves. We were somewhat better off after we began to cook our own food. But whether or not we succeeded in getting these comforts, we were all firm in our purpose of passing time in jail in perfect happiness and peace.

Note: Gandhi spent the early part of his adult life working for the rights of Indians living in British South Africa. In this instance he was imprisoned for burning his ID passbook. Beginning in 1908 and over the next 40 years, Gandhi would spend a total of 2,338 days in jail.