

Is It Necessary to Have a Perutah for Every Person Selling Chometz?

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Question: When one sells his *chometz* to a non-Jew, the non-Jew needs to give at least a *perutah*. The Bais HaVaad, for example, sells *chometz* for thousands of people every year. How many *perutos* are needed for such a *mechirah*?

Answer: Rav Yitzchok Elchonon Spector writes that technically speaking, the non-Jew should give at least one *perutah* for each seller because a *kinyan kesef*, which is one of the *kinyanim* used for the *mechirah*, needs to have at least one *perutah* per seller. Rav Moshe Feinstein also writes that one *perutah* must be given for each seller. Rav Shmuel Vosner says that there actually needs to be two *perutahs*, one for the *chometz* and one for the *karkah*, the land sale that goes along with the *chometz* sale.

Still and all, the common custom is not to be stringent on this. Rav Shmuel Kamenetsky writes that one need not be stringent about this, and the Devar Avrohom explains at length why one need not be *machmir*.

The bottom line is that *l'chatchilah*, there should be one *perutah* for each seller but *b'dieved* it is okay even if there is not.