

May One Buy Chometz That Was Sold Prior to Pesach?

Rav Ariel Ovadia

Question: Is there a reason to be *machmir* not to buy *chometz* after Pesach from a store that sold its *chometz* over Pesach?

Answer: It is said that the Vilna Gaon was *machmir* not to buy any *chometz* that was sold over Pesach out of concern that perhaps the *mechirah* wasn't valid.

In our times, the *mechiro*s are done with many *kinyanim* to ensure that the sales are valid; therefore, it is not necessary to be *machmir*. Rav Moshe Feinstein adds that since a person made a good *kinyan*, even if in his heart he did not really intend to do a *mechirah*, it is still valid. Accordingly, there is no reason to suspect that it is invalid.

Thus, it is permissible to purchase *chometz* after Pesach from a store that sold it, unless one wants to be *machmir* like the Gaon.