

May One Purchase Chometz from a Store That Sold Its Chometz but Continued Doing Business with It On Pesach?

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Question: After Pesach, I went to a store and saw that it had a sign hanging that said that the *chometz* was sold through a reputable bais din; however, I know that this store was selling *chometz* as usual on Pesach. May I purchase *chometz* from this store?

Answer: This question comes up a lot, both here in America and in Eretz Yisroel. For example, the duty-free stores in the airport in E"Y sell their *chometz* through the Rabbanut but continue to operate as usual over Pesach. One can certainly wonder how such a sale can be considered valid. Rav Moshe Feinstein deals with this question, and he writes that although it may seem like a joke, the sale is valid and the *chometz* belongs to the non-Jew over Pesach. If the Jewish owner sells some of it on Pesach, that amount is "stolen" from the sale - which may mean that the owner is in transgression of the prohibition of *baal yirae'h* - but the sale is still valid on the rest of the *chometz*.

The Chelkas Yaakov adds that it is a mitzvah to arrange such sales because doing so saves the Jewish storeowner from doing many *issurim*, even though he is still doing some *issurim*.

Thus, according to those Poskim one is permitted to buy *chometz* after Pesach from the duty-free shops that sold their chametz and other similar stores.