

Q&A from the Bais HaVaad Halacha Hotline

At the Leaventh Hour

March 31, 2022

Q I live in Lakewood, where I plan to be for Yom Tov, and I own an apartment in Eretz Yisrael that contains chametz. May I sell that chametz before the Lakewood *zman*, or do I need to do so earlier, before the *zman* where the chametz is located?

A This question was not discussed in earlier sources, because for most of human history it was rare that someone would own chametz in multiple time zones. As society became more peripatetic, the question was discussed by the *poskim*.



Some *Acharonim*, like the Oneg Yom Tov, held that chametz becomes a forbidden item (a *cheftza de'isura*) when the *zman* arrives in its own location, regardless of its owner's. According to this view, as of the *zman* in Eretz Yisrael, you would violate the *issur* while sitting in New Jersey, though the local *zman* is yet hours away.

Most *Acharonim*, including R' Tzvi Pesach Frank, who addressed the question extensively, disagreed. They maintained that because for you in Lakewood it isn't yet the *zman*, you cannot yet be in violation of the *issur* to own chametz.

It would be best to sell your chametz early through your *rav* to accommodate the *zman* in Eretz Yisrael. (For someone in the opposite situation—in Eretz Yisrael with chametz in Lakewood—have the *rav* buy back the chametz after Pesach only after Yom Tov has ended in Lakewood.)

Note that with regard to Shabbos, it seems that we are lenient in both directions: You may have a non-Jew work for you on the other side of the globe when it is Shabbos in his location, because if you don't have to be *shoveis* now, then you aren't subject to the prohibition of *amirah le'akum* either. When it's Shabbos where you are but not where he is, he may also work for you, because a *melacha* performed in a place where it isn't Shabbos isn't a *ma'asei melacha*.