

Ma'aser sheni worth less than a peruta:
peruta chamura

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The Chazon Ish (Demai 15:12) discusses transferring ma'aser sheni sanctity from produce worth less than a peruta onto a coin already used for transferring this sanctity. For this transfer to be valid, the level of halachic obligation for the previous transfer must be higher or equivalent to the current redemption for the transfer to be valid.

Unequal levels of halachic obligation where the transfer is not valid:

A. The first transfer was from a vegetable (for which separation of terumot and ma'aserot is a rabbinic obligation), and the current transfer is on less than a peruta worth of grain, wine, or oil (biblical obligation).

B. The first transfer was on safek tevel (possibly untithed produce) and the current transfer is on tevel vaday.

C. The first transfer is on fruit that a person bought from someone else (halachic status of lako'ach; lit., customer) and the current transfer is on fruit from one's tree.

D. The first transfer was on produce grown in a hothouse or indoors and the current transfer is on produce grown in soil outside.

E. The first transfer grew in olei

Mitzrayim territory, the second transfer in olei Bavel territory.

At Beit HaOtzar, Torah VeHa'aretz Institute's terumot and ma'aserot fund, we are careful to perform the first transfer on wheat (biblical) that is definitely tevel, grown by a Jewish farmer and not bought, grown outside in the soil, in olei Bavel territory. The farmer appoints the Beit HaOtzar rabbis to take terumot and ma'aserot on his behalf.

This is a peruta chamura. That is, the sanctity transferred to the first peruta in the coin that has the highest level of obligation possible today. This ensures that all further transfers will be of equivalent or lesser obligation.