

A Quinean Creed

Andrew M. Bailey

It is said that Quine's metaontology is a sort of orthodoxy. And what is an orthodoxy without a creed?¹ So I ask you, Quineans: what do you believe?

We believe in Quine, the father of metaontology, and in his criterion of ontological commitment. Which for us ontologists and for our craft was perfectly born in 'On What There Is'. We believe in one catholic and first-order logic. We acknowledge one method—paraphrase—for the remission of ontological sins. And when paraphrase fails, we accept without shame the entities required by our best theories.

Amen.

¹ I have omitted the contentious 'Pv-oque', according to which the criterion of commitment proceeds 'from both Quine and another.'