# Cultivating “Moralists × Experts”

*The Educational and Ethical Core of the Rissho Grand Design and Nichiren Shū's Grand Design 2025*

## 1. The Core Equation: Conceptualizing “Moralists × Experts”

The institutional ideal of cultivating “Moralists × Experts” ( モラリスト×エキスパート」を育む) stands as the foundational educational message and core brand vision of the Rissho Grand Design, formulated by Rissho University—the principal academic institution of Nichiren Buddhism. Rather than treating moral integrity and technical expertise as separate pedagogical tracks, the framework explicitly frames them as a multiplicative synergy. If either term is zero, the overall social contribution collapses.

| Dimension | Core Definition & Heritage | Operational Competencies |
|---|---|---|
| The Moralist<br>(Ethical Foundation) | Rooted in Nichiren’s treatise Risshō Ankoku-ron and the 'Three Vows' of the Kaimoku-sho (Pillar, Eye, and Great Vessel of Japan), formulated into the Three Principles by 16th President Tanzan Ishibashi. | 1. Seek truth and devote sincere dedication (真実を求め至誠を捧げよう)<br>2. Revere justice and eliminate evil (正義を尊び邪悪を除こう)<br>3. Aspire to peace and serve humanity (和平を願い人類に尽そう)<br>Empathy, diversity, and social responsibility. |
| The Expert<br>(Professional Mastery) | Mastery over specialized disciplines, scientific rigor, and adaptive methodology required to solve tangible, systemic human problems in a rapidly evolving global society. | Advanced disciplinary knowledge (e.g., Data Science, Law, Economics, Psychology, Environmental Science, Buddhist Studies), data analytics, AI literacy, and institutional management. |

## 2. The Necessity of Synergy: Overcoming Historical Pitfalls

The Grand Design argues that the contemporary world suffers precisely from the dissociation of technical skill and ethical conscience. In 21st-century society, neither attribute is viable in isolation:

- **Expertise without Morality:** Generates hyper-efficient technologies, market mechanisms, and institutional systems that lack human compassion. This imbalance accelerates ethical blind spots such as algorithmic discrimination, unchecked environmental exploitation, and worsening socio-economic stratification.
- **Morality without Expertise:** Remains benevolent idealism that lacks practical efficacy. In religious settings, it produces abstract piety or ritual formalism that is incapable of solving the structural crises of depopulation, temple sustainability, mental health epidemics, or global conflict.

## 3. Strategic Integration with Nichiren Shū's Grand Design 2025

The academic ideal formulated at Rissho University directly reinforces the sect-wide Nichiren Shū Grand Design 2025, which charts the administrative and spiritual pathway toward the 750th Memorial of Nichiren Shōnin in 2031. Under the administrative direction of Secretary General Chōkei Mitsuoka (a Rissho alumnus) and Chief Administrator Yuon Itō, the ideal operationalizes religious practice across five key dimensions:

- **Action-Oriented Clergy Leadership:** Overcoming hereditary 'funeral Buddhism' by preparing priests who possess both scriptural authority and professional administrative, crisis-management, and pastoral counseling capabilities.
- **Empowerment of Lay Professionals:** Mobilizing the Sangha around lay specialists—in data science, software engineering, law, and education—treating secular vocations as legitimate arenas for Lotus Sutra practice.
- **Digital Transition and AI Ethics:** Deploying mobile applications ('Gassho no Akashi'), virtual reality (VR) temple pilgrimages, and digital liturgical networks, while articulating Buddhist ethical standards regarding AI in bereavement care.
- **Global Environmental and Social Action:** Anchoring international initiatives in ecological justice (collaborations with the Global South) and economic ethics, fulfilling the Bodhisattva Never-Disparaging (Jōfukyō) ideal of 'Inochi ni Gassho' (Reverence for All Life).
- **Demographic and Institutional Resilience:** Modernizing temple governance and regional consolidation through data-informed strategies to safeguard Buddhist communities amidst Japan's depopulation crisis.

> *"The 'Moralists × Experts' model ensures that Nichiren's 750-year-old mandate—to establish the correct teaching for the peace and tranquility of the land—is realized not through nostalgic withdrawal or empty dogma, but through active, skilled, and compassionate engagement with modern society."*