Hadrian’s Beard

Attired as a Roman general, his visage shocked viewers with its Greek beard, unlike the shaven face of Caesar and all Roman emperors before.

Greece and Rome merged in his portraits, and in his architectural feats: the Pantheon in Rome and his Villa—integrated forms of twined cultures.

His famed wall was not just to defend but to define the border of new Greco-Rome—Hadrian’s dual cultured world.

If today’s major cultures—Mid-Eastern, Eastern and Western—were equally respected and universally acknowledged for many contributions to us all,

From the Mid-East, Gilgamesh, the Bible, Koran, first States, and advancing philosophy and mathematics. The East’s Buddhism and Confucianism,
silk and paper. The West enriched with modern science, and communications. The music, writing, and art of each has spread for centuries among the others.

Interdependence is accelerating. Each culture would be poorer without the others. The three could compose a cultural trinity with little need for walls or wars.