



I'm beginning to think that [Stephen Farrell](#) has been in the field too long. His [latest piece](#), in today's *New York Times* has taken on a particularly Hemingway-esque feel. Filed with a Baghdad byline, it opens thusly:

Blood and ouzo mingled on the sidewalk outside a shattered Baghdad liquor store on Thursday after three people were killed in a car bombing directed at alcohol sellers in one of Baghdad's most heavily protected areas...

The wreckage came to rest alongside 10-foot-high concrete blast walls that had been brightly painted with tranquil scenes of camels and marshland waterways as part of an American-financed beautification effort...

“There's nothing left to be targeted here, only poor people who buy alcohol and the unfortunate family in the Suburban,” said an Iraqi policeman.

[Iraq Bomber Aimed at Alcohol Sellers - New York Times](#)

My favorite note comes later on, as he describes the Yazidis, a sect which includes the shops owners:

... their faith combines elements of Zoroastrianism, Judaism, Christianity and Islam and includes a Peacock Angel.