Cândäyan is the pioneer work in a series of Sufi love-narratives, the Masnavïs, composed in India. The Indo-Sufi Masnavï genre continued to flourish for over 500 years, resulting in a substantial volume of very rich literature. In the unique position of being the pioneer work of the Indo-Sufi Masnavï genre, Cândäyan served as a model for the subsequent Masnavïs, such as Kutuban’s Mrgâvati and Jayasi’s Padmâvat. In the Mahakoshal region of India, Canaini, a pastoral folk-tale also known as Lorikäyan, was very popular. Maulana Daud based his Cândäyan on this oral epic. Lorik lives in Govar, a town on the banks of the Ganges river, with his wife Mainâ. One day he catches a glimpse of Cândâ, the princess of Govar, and falls in love with her. Cândâ also loves Lorik, and both elope to be able to live together.

After many adventures, Lorik and Cândâ return back to Govar to live with Lorik’s family.

Until recently it was believed that the Sufi love narratives of India were sub-standard works, not quite representative of the Indian morals, and did not meet the Indian literary standards. Consequently, for years, the Hindi Masnavï literature remained neglected. This study opens a window into the true nature of the Masnavï, and invites the reader to take a new look at the Indo-Sufi Masnavï genre and determine its rightful place in the history of Hindi literature.