25 The Bald Man and his Wife

- Classification: Folk Comedy / Infidelity & Trickery
- The Narrative Arc: A lively young woman is deeply unattracted to her elderly husband's bald head. She weaponizes her embarrassment, forcing him out on a grueling, multi-mile trek across the countryside to seek a mythical hair-growth cure just so she can invite her secret lover over. Warned by a wise stranger on the road that no such cure exists, the old man turns back early, surprising the lovers. To cover the lover's desperate escape from the attic loft, the wife forces her husband to kneel on the floor with her apron thrown over his eyes, screaming out commands to an imaginary "hair-growth spell" that are actually escape directions for her hidden partner.
- Folklore Elements & Motifs:

o The Decoy Ritual: Using fake magic or superstition to obscure domestic deception.

o The Foolish Husband: A classic comedic archetype blinded by trust and desire.

- Thematic Core: The vulnerability of the desperate elderly when manipulated by youthful cunning.
- Key Quote: “If you hear the house falling now... hold your head or you will break the spell... Jump out! Jump out!”