As one can read in numerous accounts of Greek mythology, “Procrustes was an innkeeper who promised his guests a bed that fit them perfectly. However, as soon as the travelers were in his house, Procrustes would tie them to an iron bed. If they were shorter than the bed, he would stretch them on a rack until they were as long as the bed. If the guests were taller than the bed, Procrustes would cut off their legs until they fit. In either case, his victims died. Procrustes met his end at the hands of the Greek hero Theseus, who killed him the same way that the robber took care of his victims. Today the term Procrustean bed means a standard or set of conditions, determined arbitrarily, to which everyone is forced to conform” (see www.mythencyclopedia.com/Pa-Pr/Procrustes.html). Some dictionaries indicate the term also refers to forcing someone or something to fit into an unnatural scheme or pattern.


The Adventures of Theseus (www.sikyon.com/athens/Theseus/theseus_eg01.html) contains additional details and images. Interestingly, numerous images of this myth may be found during an online image search, with the following being representative:

www.google.com/search?q=Procrustes&tbm=isch&tbo=u&source=univ&sa=X&ved=0ahUKEwiNq8-rgcLSAhWCLyYKHTTvGiUQsAQIVWQ&biw=1536&bih=747

www.mythencyclopedia.com/Pa-Pr/Procrustes.html

Read more: www.mythencyclopedia.com/Pa-Pr/Procrustes.html#ixzz4aYMd2EqL