



*(Photo: Purple Gentian (Gentiana purpurea), the Alps)*

## **Making the Image Whole**

Every mechanically reproduced image of a natural world, whether it be the photograph of a flower, or the recording of a violin, must to a certain extent be recomposed by the viewer or listener in order to bring it back to life. The truer the reproduction, the less we will have to do this.

In a way, this is rather like healing the image, which of course constitutes a profound reversal of how, in the thousands of years we have walked the land as a species, the sights and sounds of Nature have generally, without any special effort on our part, soothed and comforted us. This largely unconscious ability to 'make the image whole' does however presuppose a long-standing intimate relationship with the original, or at least a certain familiarity with, for example, actual flowers or real acoustic instruments.

Tragically, children who are for whatever reason denied this primary relationship with things natural can only with great difficulty recreate pictures or sounds in this way. Theirs has become in part a 2nd-hand world of ghost images projected on the proverbial walls of a high-tech cave.