We study the existence of positive solutions to singular elliptic boundary value problems involving the $p$–Laplace operator. We establish a sub-supersolution theorem and use an eigenfunction of the $p$–Laplacian to construct sub- and supersolutions. Our assumptions on the singular term are more relaxed than in some previous papers, even for the case $p = 2$, as we allow for non-monotone singular terms with blowup controlled by a power. We also allow for a parameter dependent term and study how its growth affects our existence result. (Received September 01, 2010)